EYEWITNESS VISUAL DICTIONARIES

THE VISUAL DICTIONARY *of* SPECIAL MILITARY FORCES

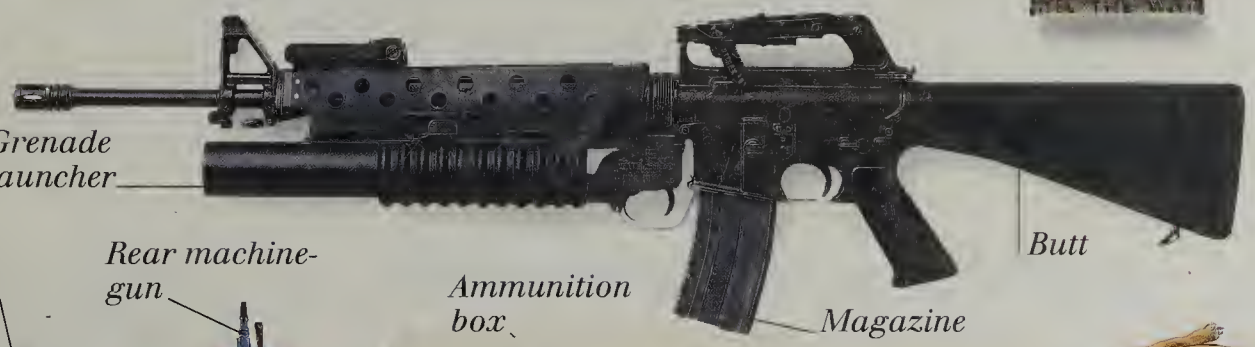
FRENCH PARACHUTISTS' BADGE

SNIPER'S CAMOUFLAGE

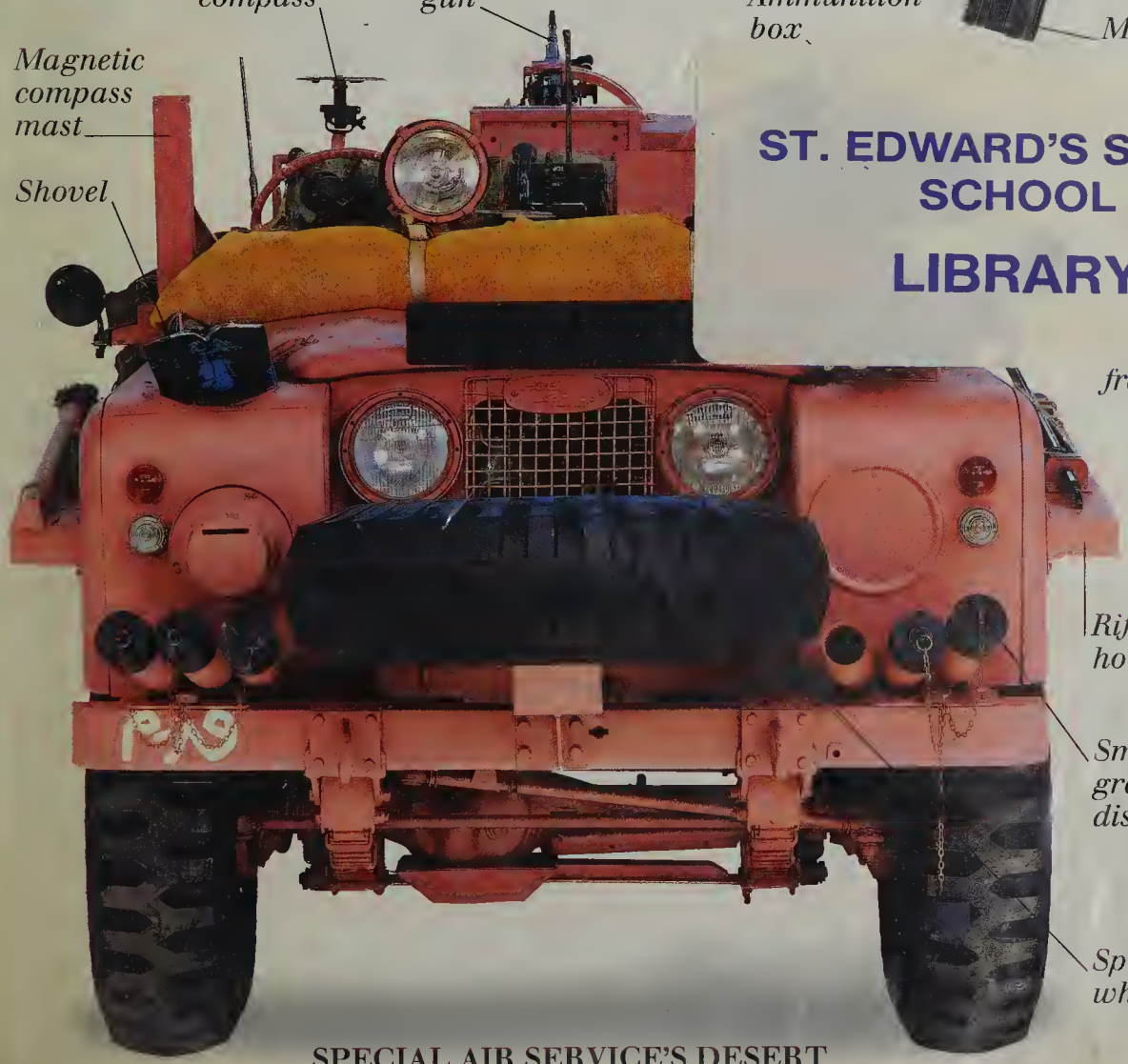
US PARACHUTISTS' BADGE

FRENCH FOREIGN LEGION'S BADGE

US RIFLE AND GRENADE LAUNCHER



BRITISH PARADROPPABLE MOTORCYCLE



SPECIAL AIR SERVICE'S DESERT LAND ROVER (PINK PANTHER)

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US KNUCKLEDUSTER KNIFE

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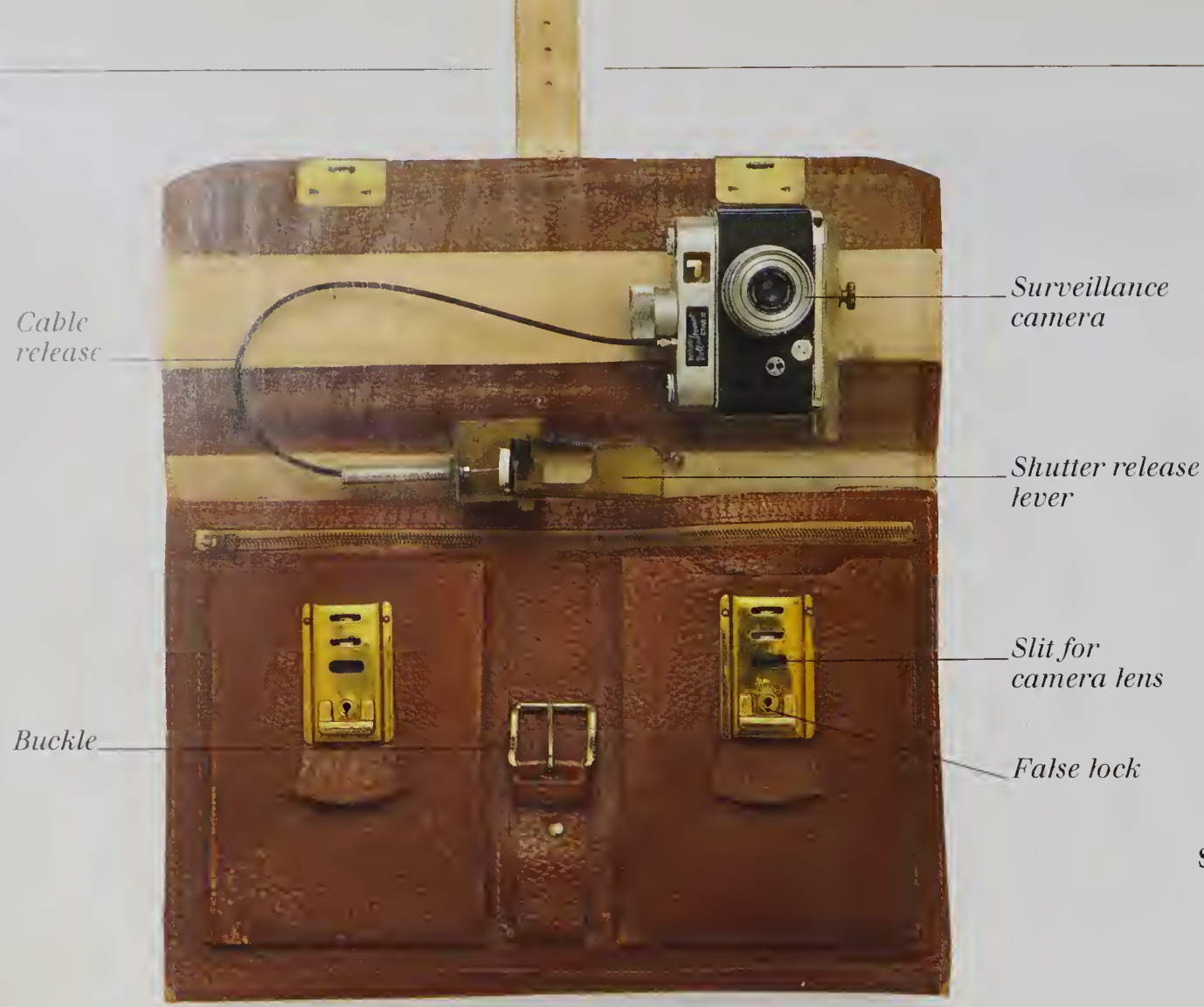
EYEWITNESS VISUAL DICTIONARIES

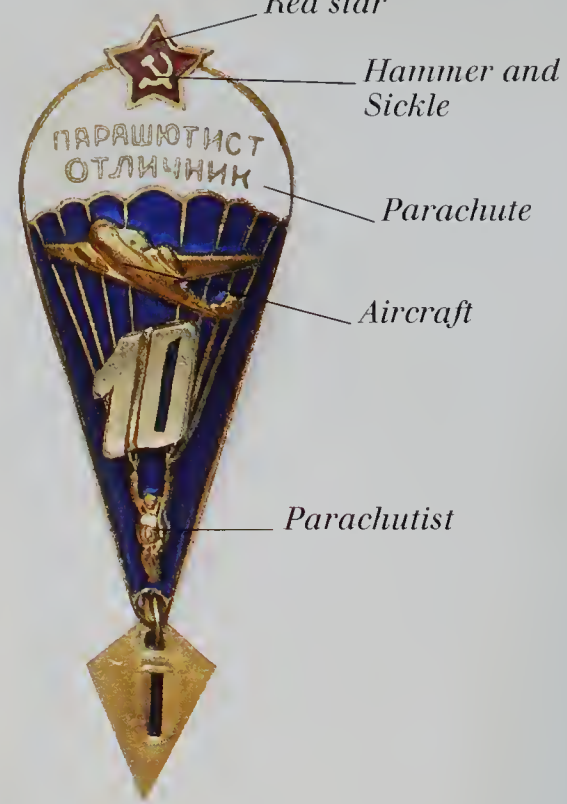
THE VISUAL DICTIONARY *of*

SPECIAL MILITARY FORCES

BRITISH FIGHTING KNIFE, WORLD WAR II (1939-1945)



US PHOTO-SURVEILLANCE BRIEFCASE, 1960s



SOVIET ARMY ADVANCED PARACHUTISTS' BADGE, 1970s

BRITISH DESERT GOGGLES, WORLD WAR II (1939-1945)

ITALIAN FRANCHI 12-BORE S.P.A.S. (SPECIAL PURPOSE AUTOMATIC SHOTGUN), 1990s

US PARACHUTISTS' .30 IN M1A1 CARBINE, 1940s-1950s

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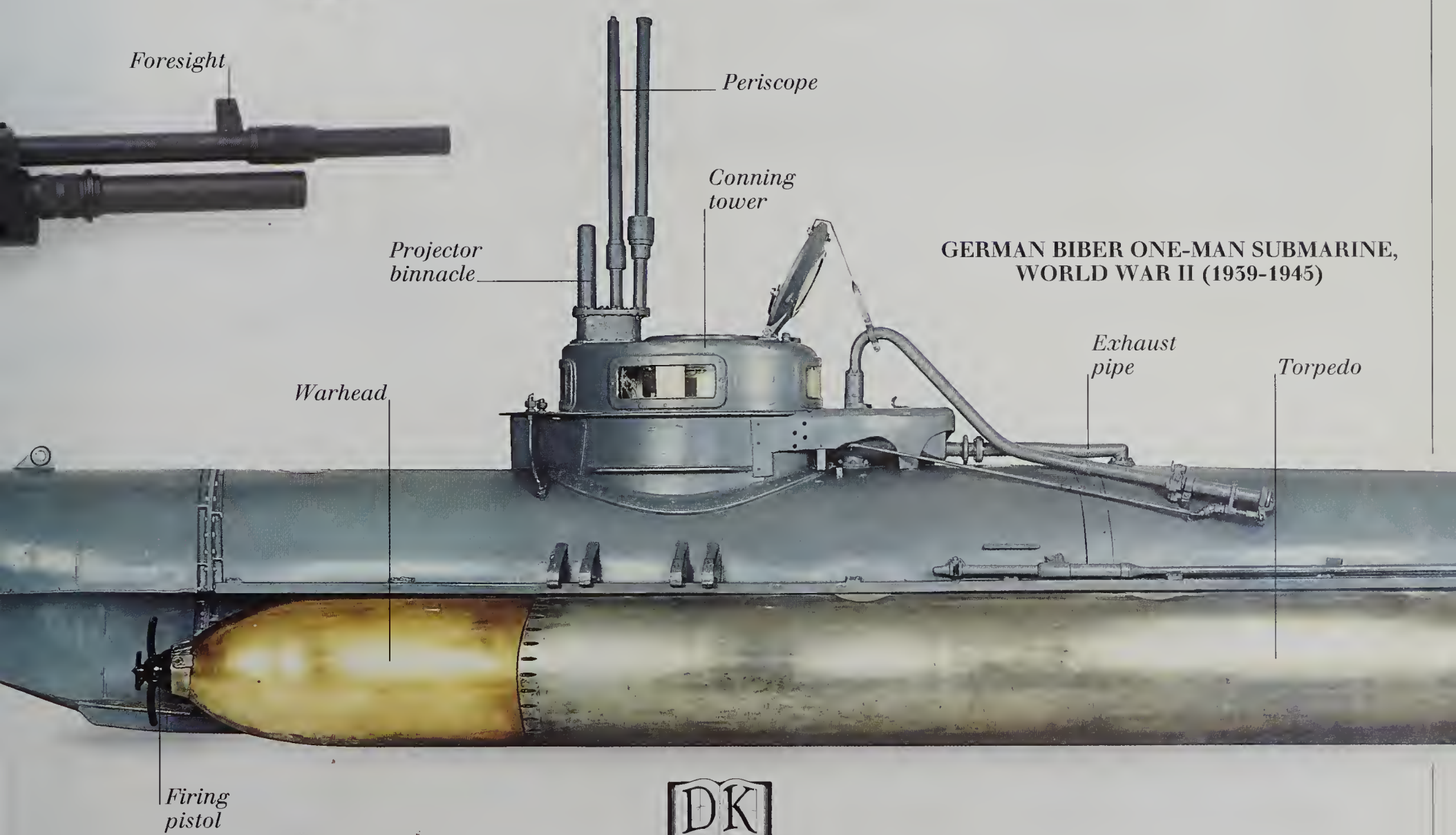

GERMAN BIBER ONE-MAN SUBMARINE, WORLD WAR II (1939-1945)

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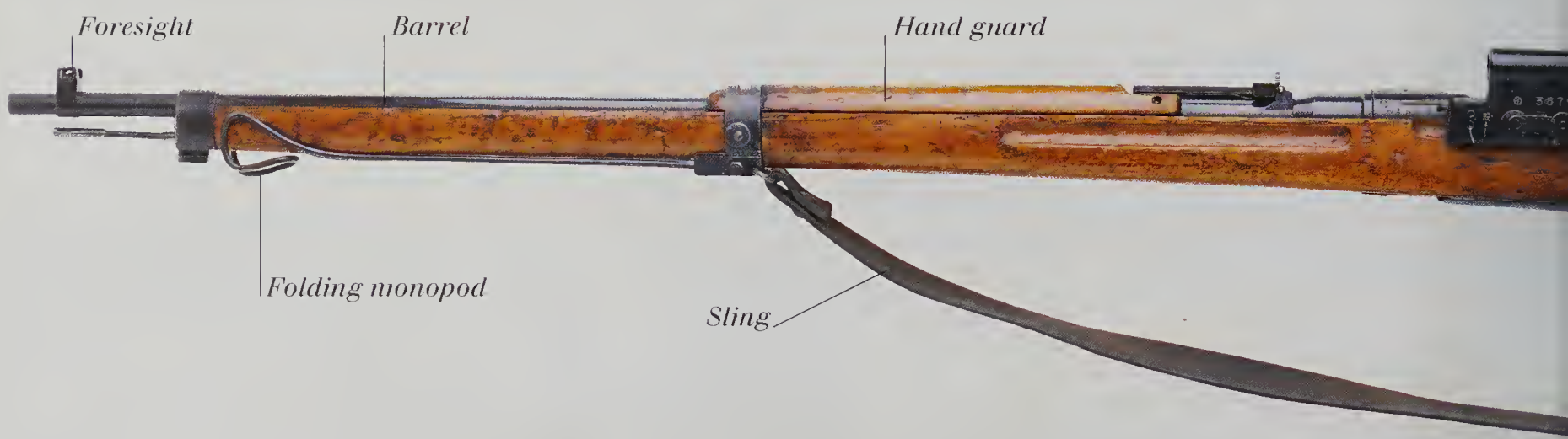
US .22 in PIPE PISTOL, WORLD WAR II (1939-1945)



This book is dedicated to the memory of Charles Fraser-Smith, "Q"

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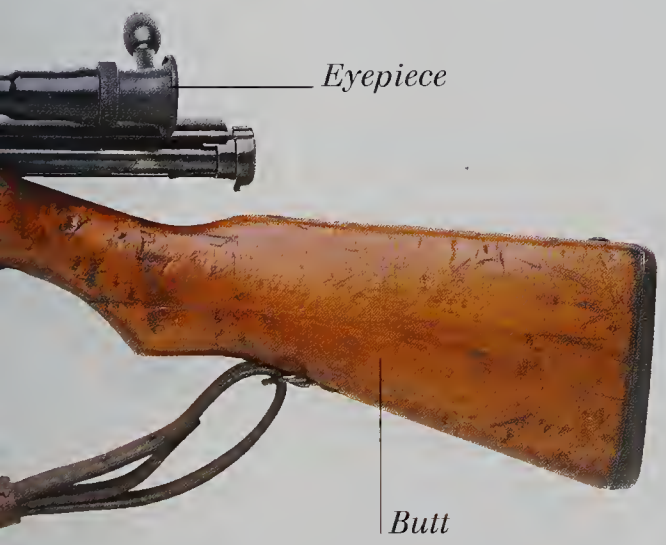
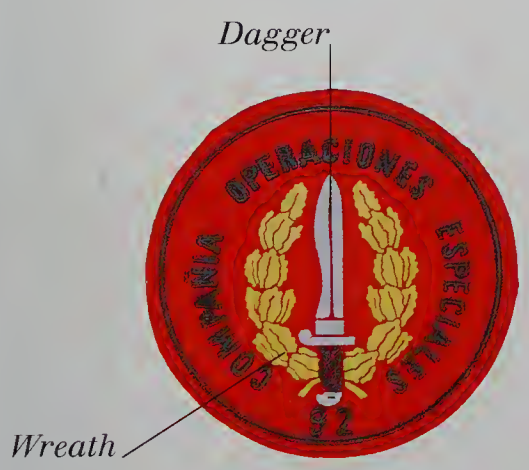


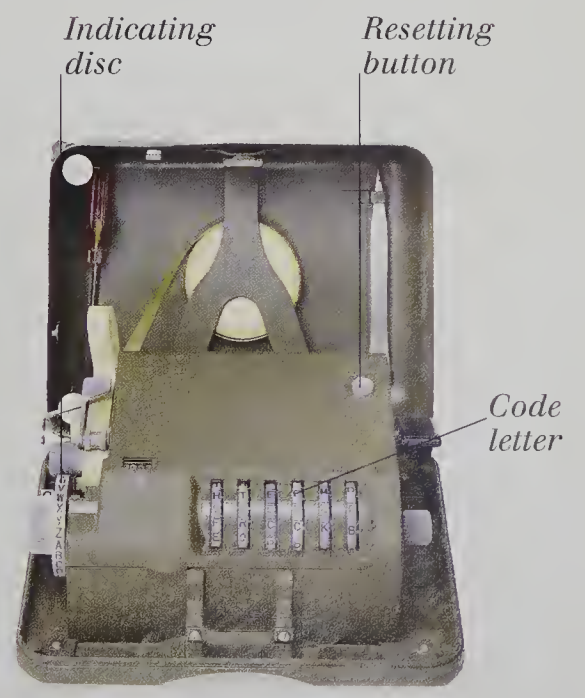
JAPANESE 6.5 MM TYPE 97 SNIPER'S RIFLE, c.1937



SPANISH ARMY SPECIAL FORCES' BADGE, 1990s

FRENCH MARINE PARACHUTISTS' BADGE, 1970s

FRENCH PARACHUTISTS' EQUIPMENT, 1970s

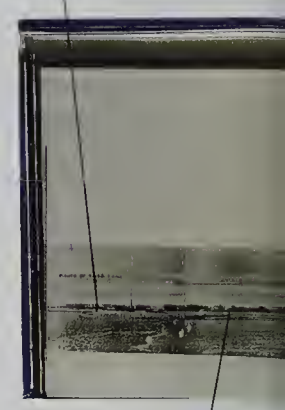


US M-209-B CIPHER MACHINE, WORLD WAR II (1939-1945)

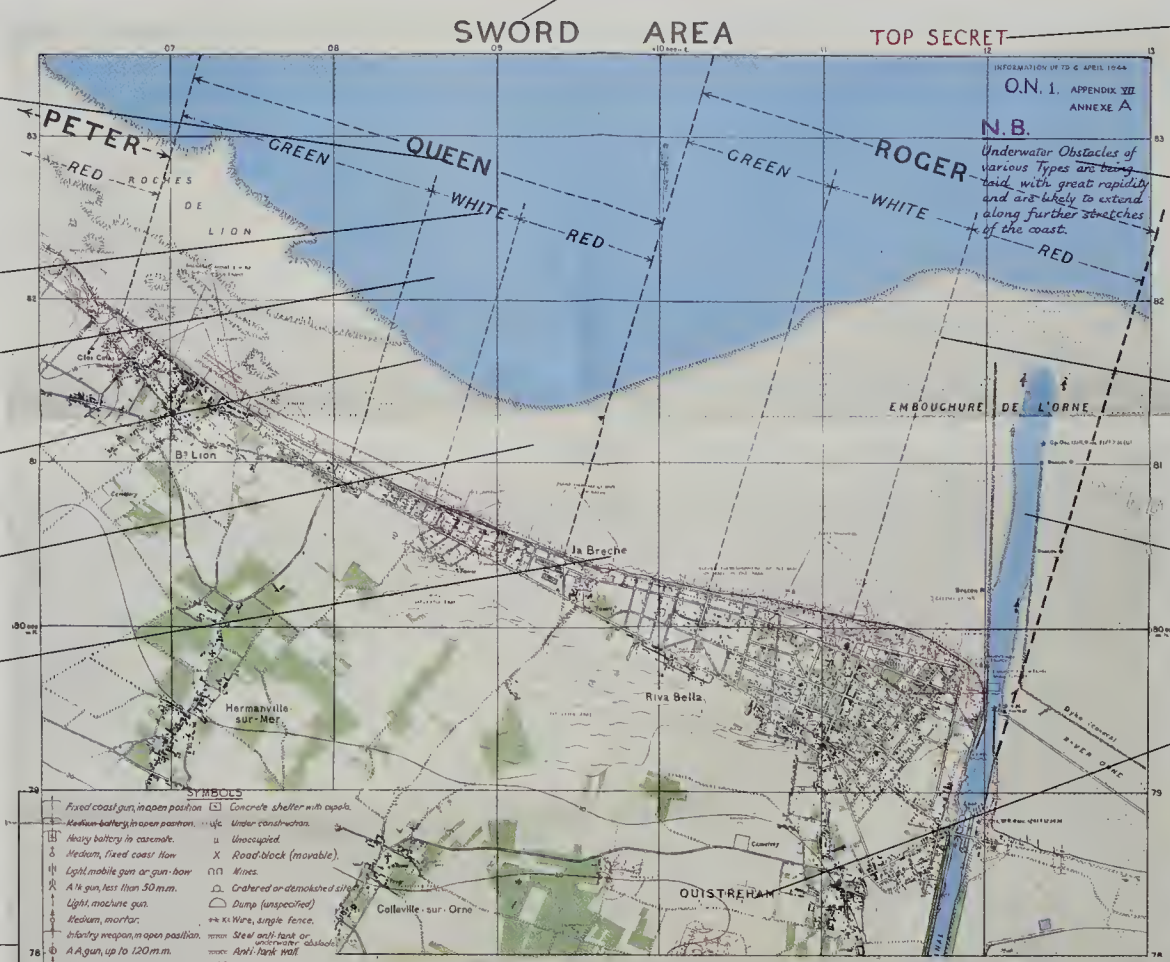
Military intelligence

POSTCARDS OF NORMANDY, FRANCE, 1930s–1940s

MILITARY INTELLIGENCE INVOLVES GATHERING and analysing information that may be helpful in planning military operations. Intelligence may be collected from many sources, including secret documents obtained by agents working for intelligence agencies, aerial photographs taken by reconnaissance aircraft, and even postcards and photographs of enemy territory sent in by the general public. During World War II, military intelligence provided information for the Allies to begin the liberation of German-occupied Europe in the D-Day landings on the Normandy coastline of France. Aerial photographs showed the exact positions of the German troops and of the obstacles they had placed on the beaches to prevent a seaborne invasion. Using these photographs, together with maps and other information, detailed briefing models of the landing areas on the Normandy beaches were made so that the Allied commanders were familiar with the area before launching their troops.



MAP OF "SWORD" BEACH D-DAY LANDING AREA, NORMANDY, FRANCE, APRIL 1944



"Sword", the code-name for one of five beaches designated by the Allies for the D-Day landings

"Top secret", indicating classified information

"Queen", the code-name for a section of "Sword" beach

"White", the code-name for a subsection of beach

Warning that underwater obstacles were being laid by the Germans

Sea

Coastline

Beach

La Brèche

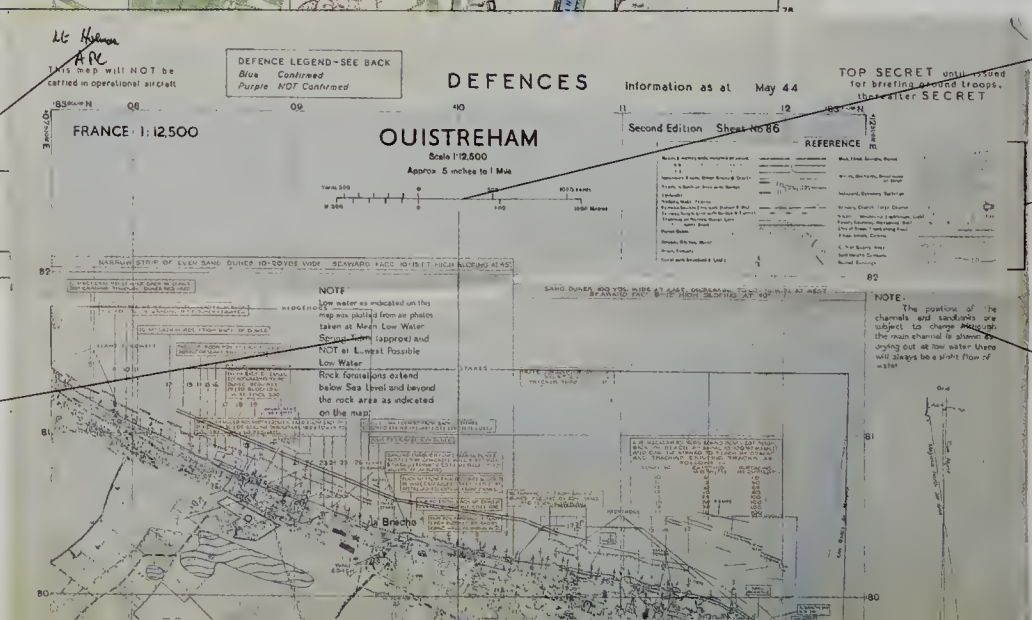
Line designating subdivision of beaches

River Orne

Ouistreham

Key to map symbols

MAP OF OUISTREHAM AREA OF "SWORD" BEACH, NORMANDY, FRANCE, MAY 1944



Scale bar

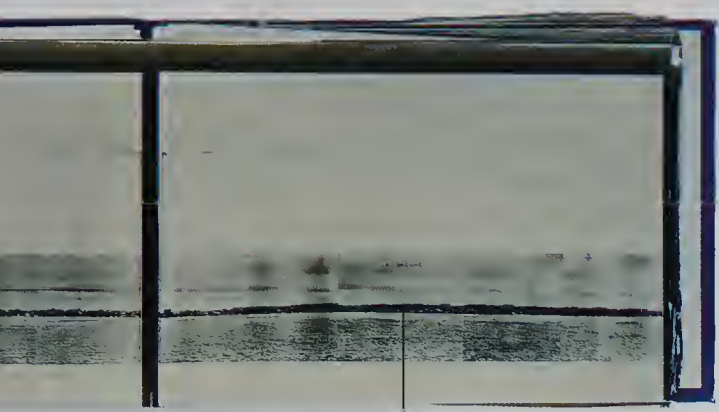
Key to map symbols

Owner of map (Lieutenant D. Holman)

Note about sea levels

Note about channels and sandbanks

COMPOSITE PANORAMA OF COASTLINE OF "SWORD" BEACH, NORMANDY, FRANCE, 1944

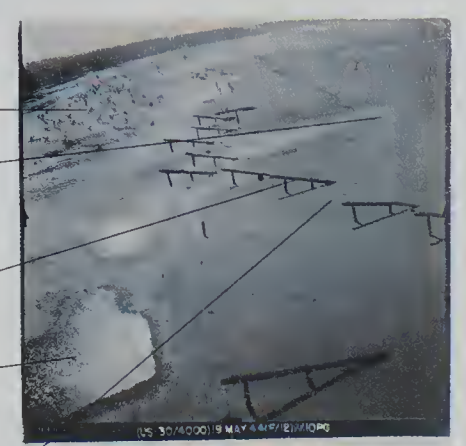


La Brèche

AERIAL PHOTOGRAPHS OF COASTLINE OF FRANCE, MARCH–MAY 1944

Inland France
Road
Fields
Buildings
Beach
Sea

HIGH-LEVEL OVERHEAD AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH



Jagged steel obstacles ("hedgehogs")
Beach
Stakes driven into beach
Sea
Marks made by intelligence officers to indicate where Germans may place mines

LOW-LEVEL OBLIQUE AERIAL PHOTOGRAPH

BRIEFING MODEL OF SECTION OF D-DAY LANDING BEACH, NORMANDY, FRANCE, 1944

Beach
Anti-tank ditch
Building
Wood
Minefield
Minefield
Railway line
Road
Minefield (unconfirmed)
Label indicating that the windows of buildings are bricked-up in this area, showing that an invasion may have been expected here
Label indicating sea wall
Designated beach sector
Label indicating sea wall
Label indicating gaps in sea wall
Label indicating houses that have been fortified by the Germans
Code for subdivision of beach into "red" area
Code for subdivision of beach into "white" area
Sea

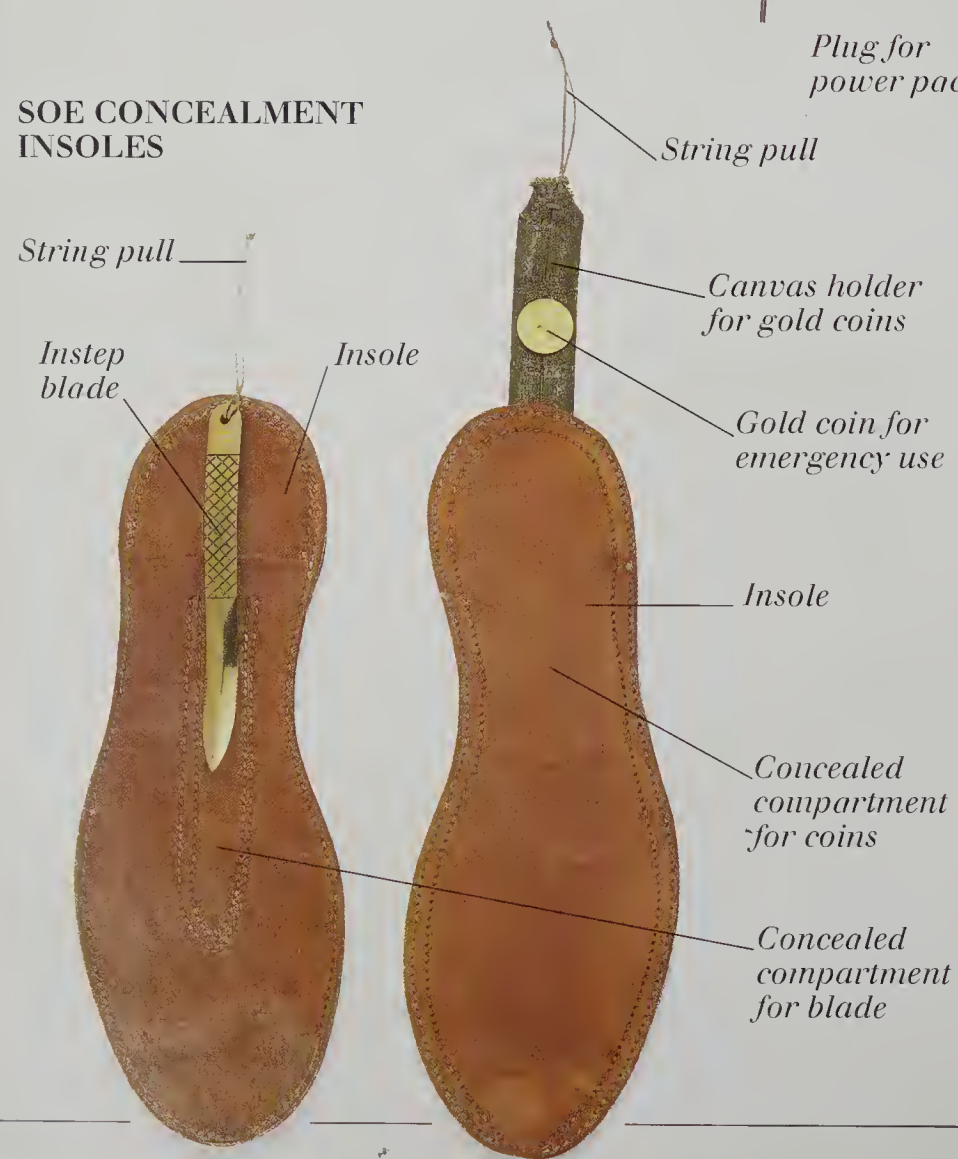
Wartime secret agents 1

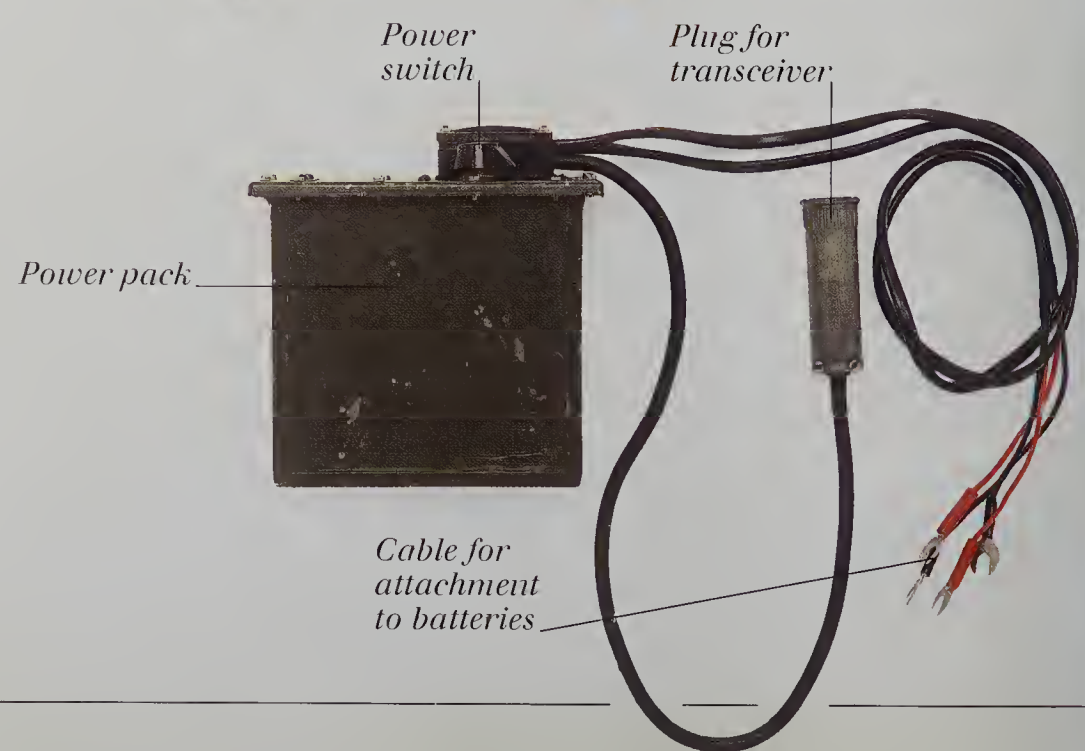
During World War II, hundreds of secret agents were parachuted behind enemy lines to support and coordinate local resistance groups. The British SOE (Special Operations Executive) and the American OSS (Office of Strategic Services) were established to train and equip the agents selected for such missions. Aircraft carrying the agents and their equipment were guided to safe dropping zones by another agent on the ground, who communicated with the pilot using a portable transceiver, such as the S-phone. Other transceivers, often disguised as suitcases, were used to maintain contact with home base (see pp. 10-11). When they went on secret missions, agents were often armed with silent weapons, such as knives or silenced pistols. Agents were also equipped with escape aids, such as compasses and maps, for use if they were in danger of being captured and had to flee. These items were usually hidden in secret compartments in various everyday objects, such as cigarette lighters and fountain pens (see pp. 12-13).

SOE LIGHTS FOR GUIDING AIRCRAFT

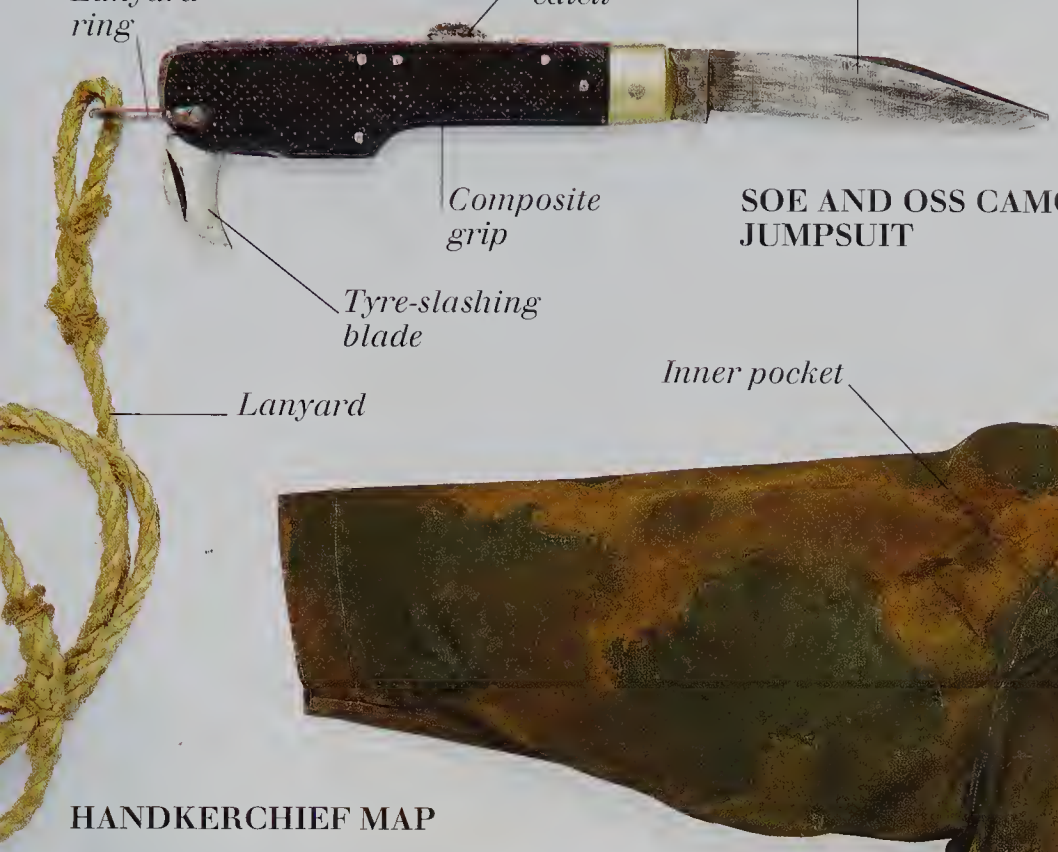
SOE TRANSCEIVER (S-PHONE) MK IV

SOE CONCEALMENT INSOLES



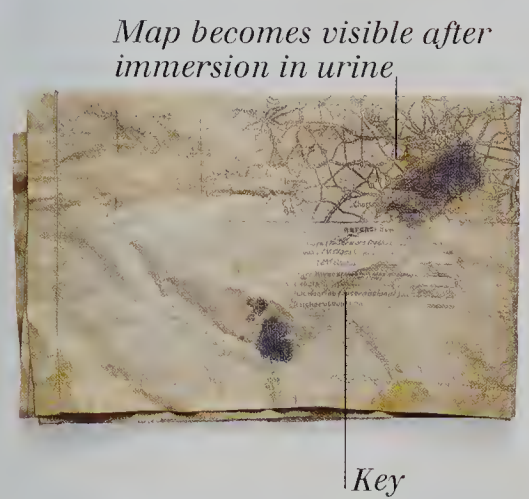


SOE SABOTEUR'S KNIFE



SOE AND OSS CAMOUFLAGE JUMPSUIT

HANDKERCHIEF MAP



SOE SHOULDER HOLSTER WITH .32 IN COLT AUTOMATIC PISTOL

Wartime secret agents 2

SOE AND OSS SPECIAL FORCES' BADGE

Initials of Special Forces

Wing

OSS "BEANO" GRENADE

Secondary arming mechanism and fuse

Primary safety ring

Grenade body

FALSE GERMAN IDENTIFICATION DOCUMENT MADE BY OSS

Identification number

Expiry date

Surname

Forenames

Date of birth

Place of birth

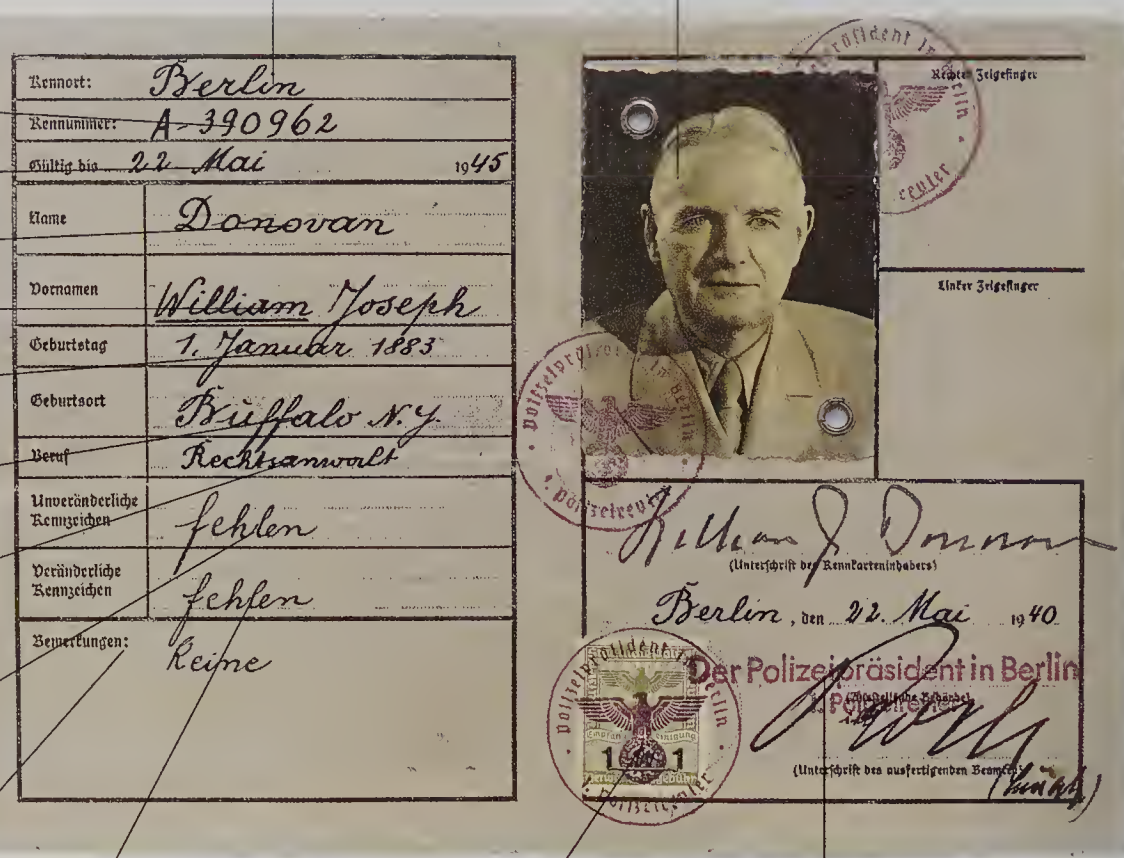
Profession (lawyer)

Unalterable distinguishing marks (none)

Notes (none)

Place of issue

Photograph of General William J. Donovan (Director of the OSS)



Alterable distinguishing marks (none)

Forged imprint of German national emblem

Forged imprint of Berlin police chief

Foresight

Suppressor (silencer) end cap

OSS CLANDESTINE BLADE KIT

OSS marking

Open-handled dagger

Ring dagger

Thumb knife

Triple-edged dart

Folding leather case

Single-hook thrust dagger

Hatpin dagger

Triple-edged concealment dagger

Manufacturer's plate

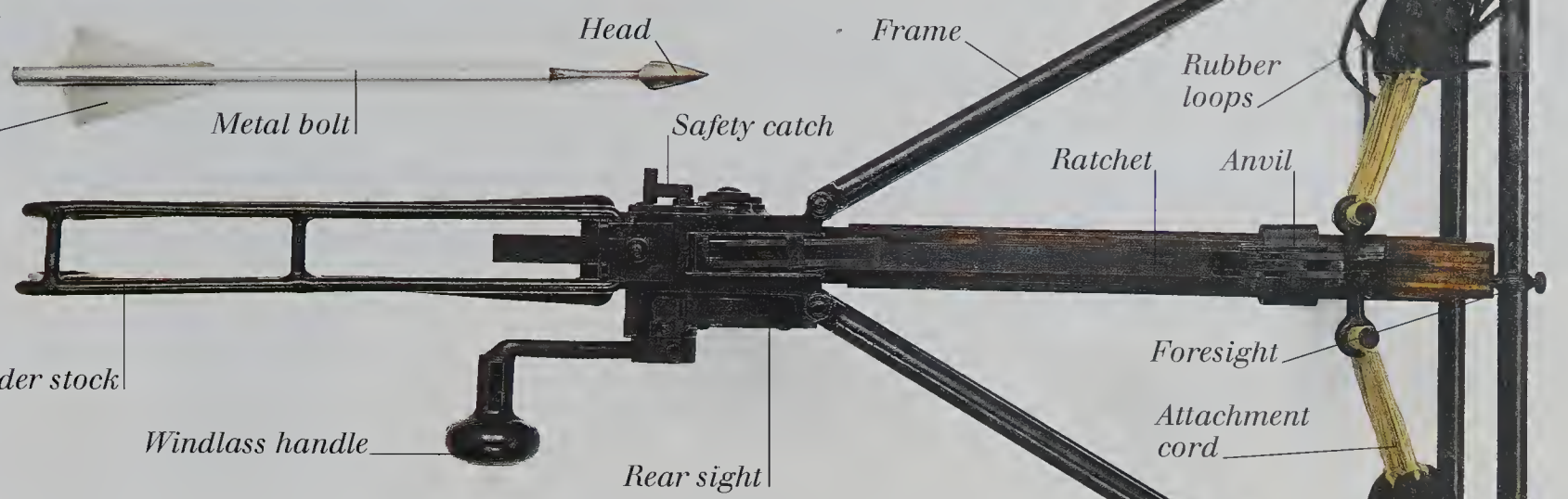
Double-edged knife

Blackened double-edged knife

Lapel knife

Lacing for case

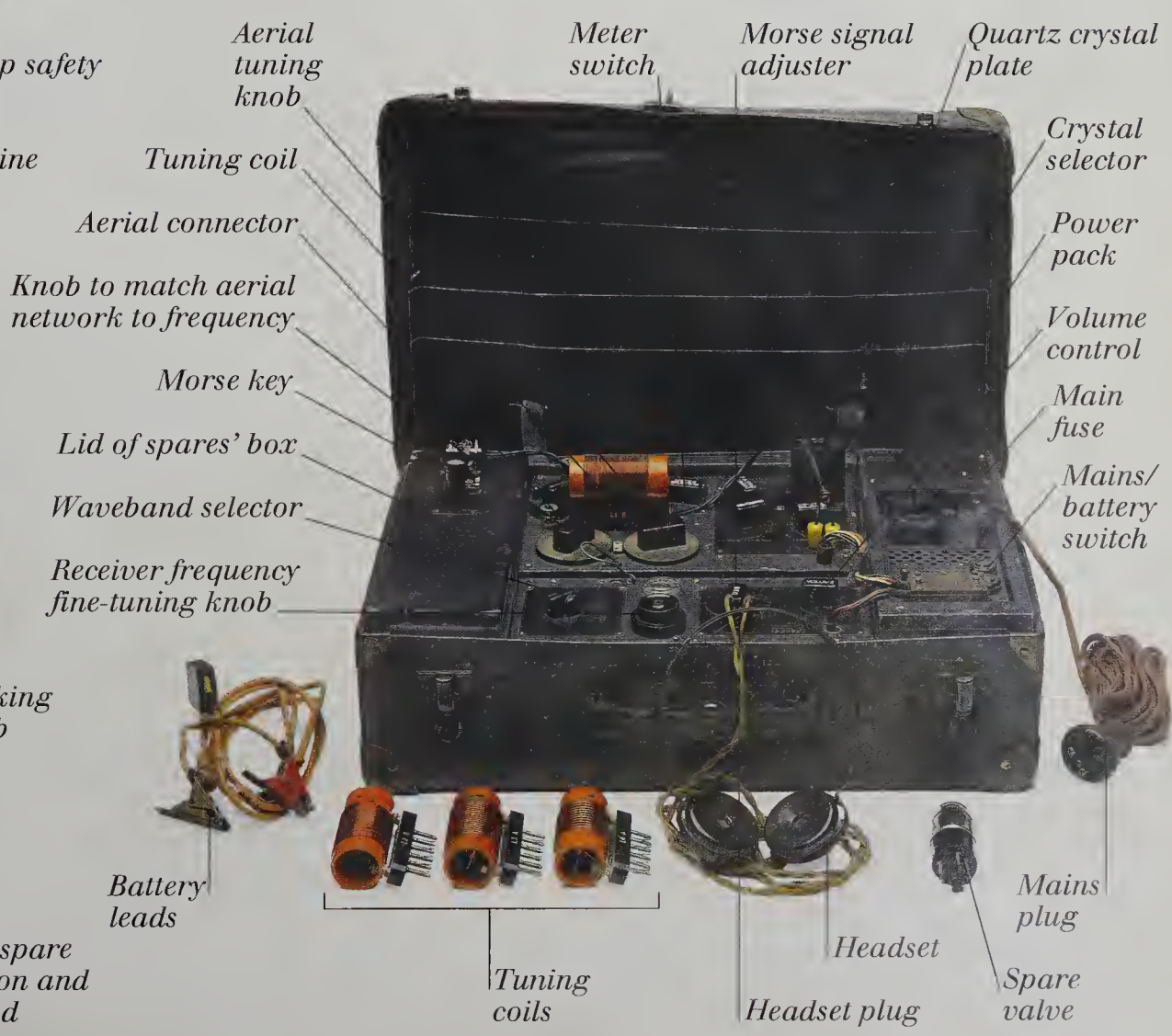
SOE CROSSBOW



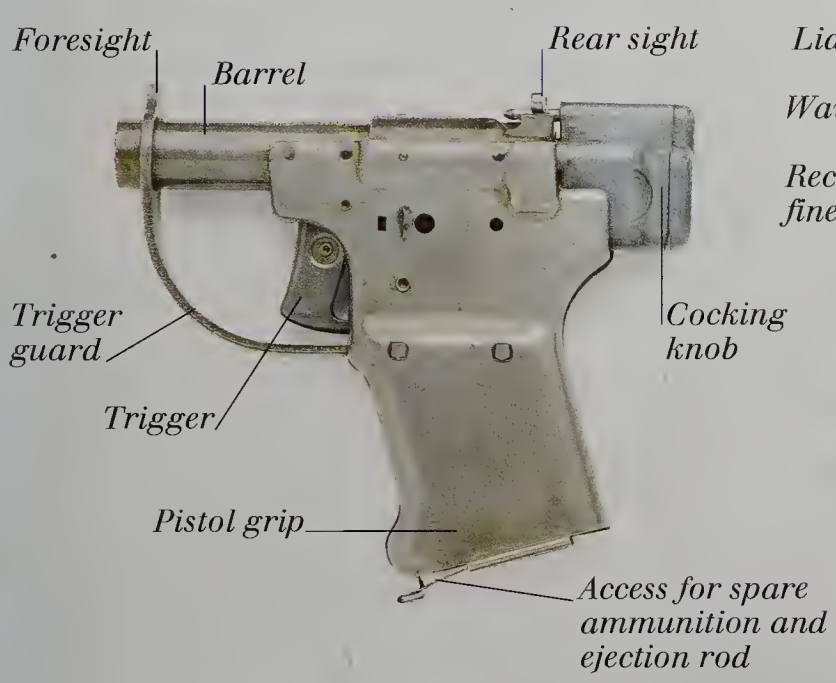
SOE HI-STANDARD .22 IN SILENCED AUTOMATIC PISTOL

SOE WELROD .32 IN SILENCED PISTOL

BRITISH TYPE 3 MK II SUITCASE RADIO



OSS LIBERATOR .45 IN PISTOL



Wartime secret agents 3

CIGARETTE LIGHTER WITH CONCEALED COMPASS

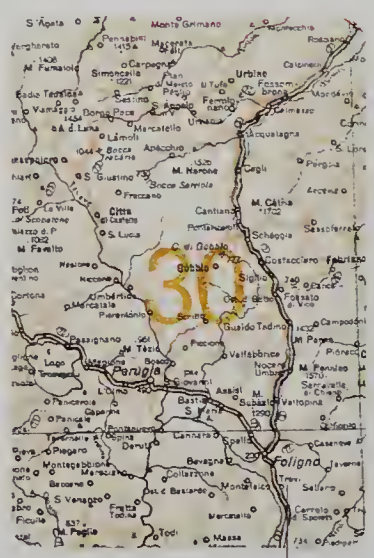
False top for compass compartment with reverse-thread screw

DICE SHAKER WITH CONCEALED COMPARTMENT

SHAVING BRUSH WITH CONCEALED COMPARTMENT

HAIRBRUSH WITH CONCEALED COMPARTMENT

PLAYING CARDS WITH CONCEALED MAP SECTIONS



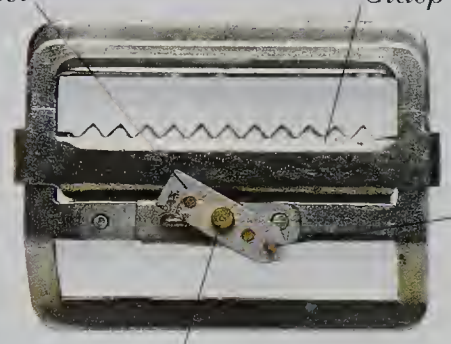
Playing card

Section of map

Numbered section of map

FOUNTAIN PEN WITH CONCEALED MAP AND COMPASS

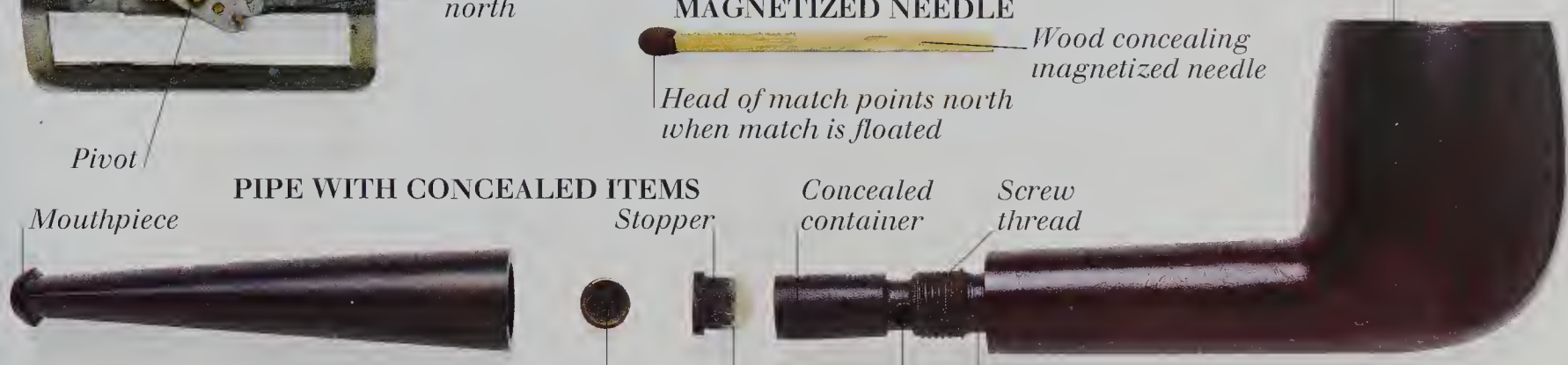
BUCKLE COMPASS



MAGNETIZED PEN NIB

MATCH CONTAINING MAGNETIZED NEEDLE

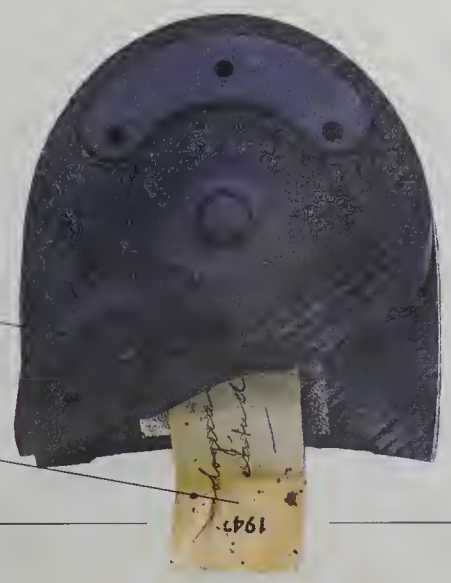
PIPE WITH CONCEALED ITEMS



ITEMS CONTAINED IN HAIRBRUSH

LEATHER BOOT HEEL WITH CONCEALED COMPARTMENT

RUBBER BOOT HEEL WITH CONCEALED COMPARTMENT



Concealed weapons

SECRET AGENTS OPERATING inside enemy territory may carry concealed weapons, mainly for use as a last resort to avoid capture. During World War II, many such weapons were designed specifically for agents of the British SOE (Special Operations Executive) and American OSS (Office of Strategic Services). Agents required weapons that were small enough to be hidden easily or disguised as everyday objects. Because these weapons were so small, they had a limited range – only 3.5 m (12 ft) for some of the pistols shown here. Some weapons could be concealed in clothing. Such weapons ranged from a simple lapel knife to the more sophisticated belt pistol.

FRENCH FIVE-SHOT RING REVOLVER, 1870s

OSS SPRING-LOADED TELESCOPIC COSH, WORLD WAR II (1939-1945)

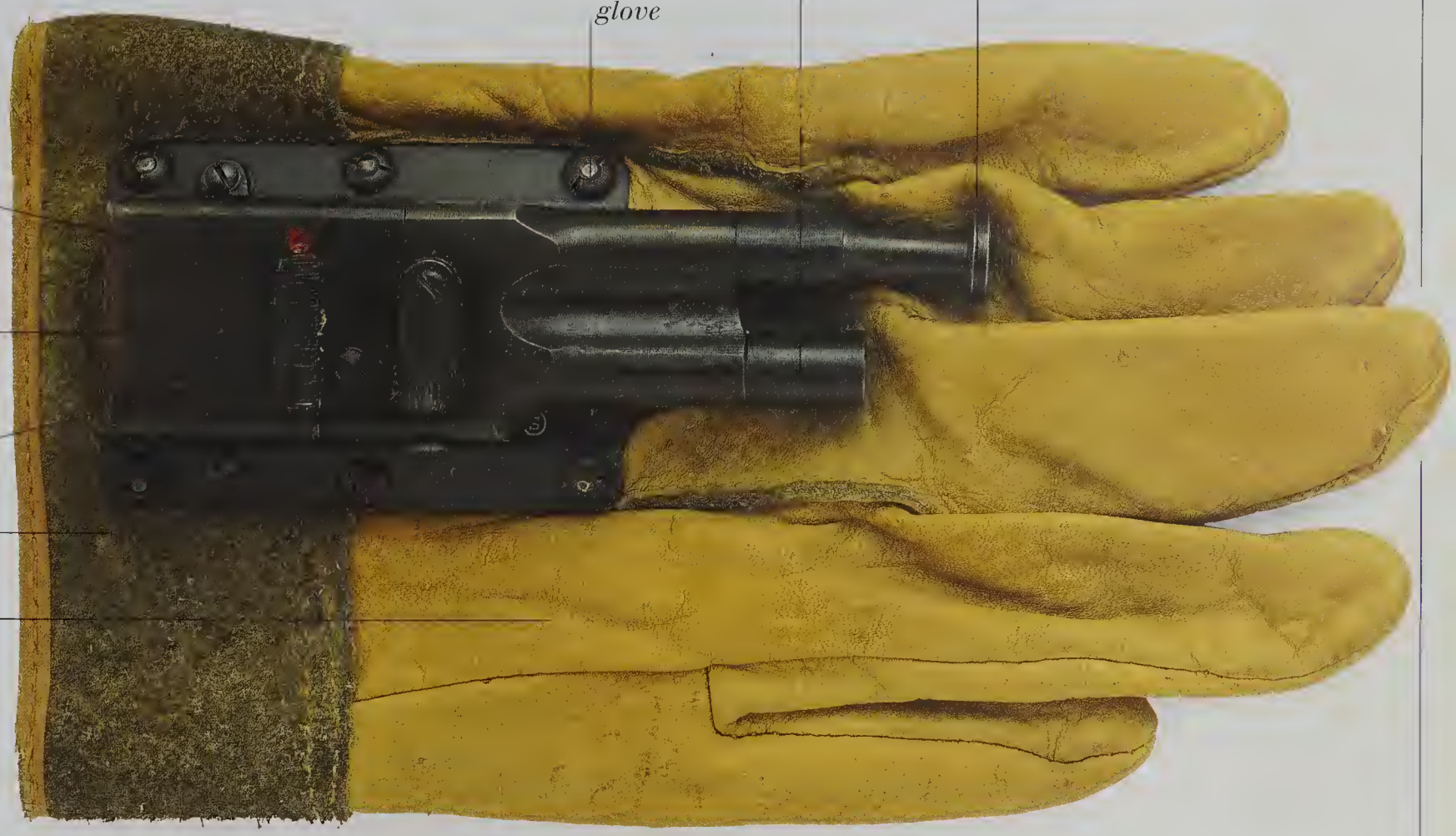
SOE AND OSS .22 IN "STINGER" SINGLE-SHOT WEAPON, WORLD WAR II (1939-1945)

OSS .22 IN PIPE PISTOL, WORLD WAR II (1939-1945)

BRITISH SPECIAL FORCES' BELT PISTOL, WORLD WAR II (1939-1945)

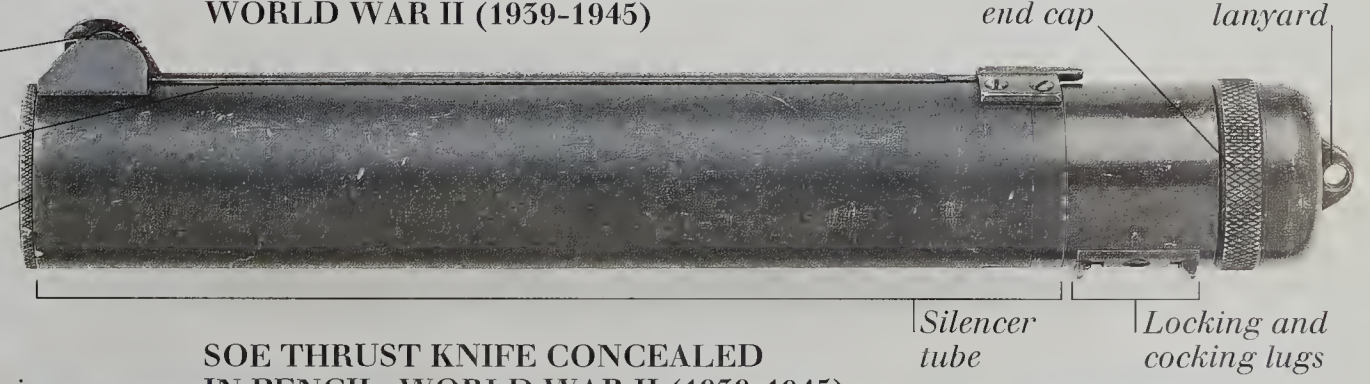
SOE LAPEL KNIFE, WORLD WAR II (1939-1945)

US OFFICE OF NAVAL INTELLIGENCE .38 IN GLOVE PISTOL, WORLD WAR II (1939-1945)



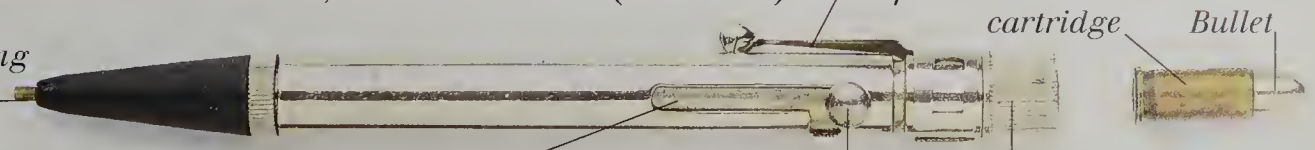
SOE DOUBLE-HOOKED THRUST KNIFE, WORLD WAR II (1939-1945)

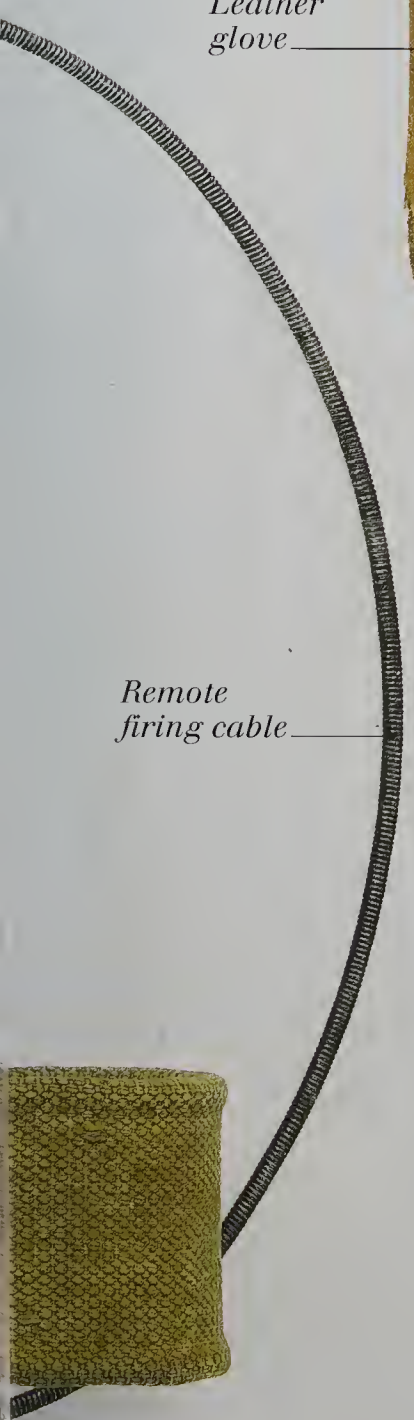
SOE AND OSS .32 IN SLEEVE PISTOL, WORLD WAR II (1939-1945)



SOE THRUST KNIFE CONCEALED IN PENCIL, WORLD WAR II (1939-1945)

SOE 6.35 MM PROPELLING PENCIL PISTOL, WORLD WAR II (1939-1945)

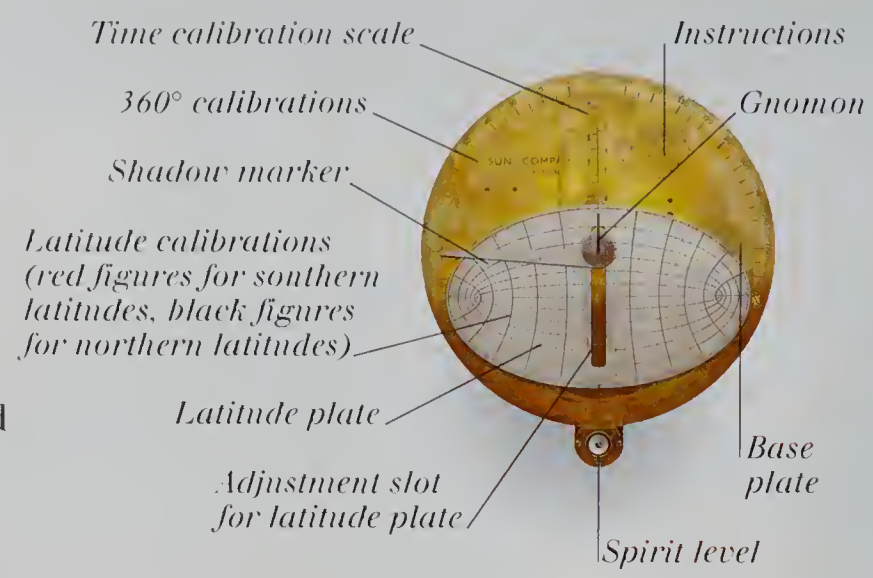




Desert forces

ARMED FORCES OPERATING IN THE DESERT have to cope with extremes of temperature and water shortage, as well as facing the difficulties of defending and travelling across vast areas of almost featureless terrain. Some forces, such as the French Foreign Legion, have become specialists in desert warfare. Other nations established units specifically to carry out reconnaissance and sabotage in the desert; such units included the British Long Range Desert Group and the SAS (Special Air Service). Reliable four-wheel-drive vehicles – such as the modified Land Rover shown here – are essential in the desert. This vehicle (known as the "Pink Panther" because of the colour of its sand camouflage) was fitted with large-capacity fuel tanks to give it a longer than average range of about 2,400 km (1,500 miles).

BRITISH SUN COMPASS, WORLD WAR II (1939-1945)



SIDE VIEW OF BRITISH SPECIAL AIR SERVICE'S LAND ROVER ("PINK PANTHER"), 1960s-1980s

VHF radio aerial
UHF radio
84 mm anti-tank weapon stowage
Grenade box
Sun compass
7.62 mm general purpose machine-gun
180-litre (40-gallon) fuel tank
Spotlight
Ammunition bin
84 mm anti-tank round
Smoke-grenade discharger
Bergen pack
Theodolite case
Pannier
Tail-board
Folded tent
Sand channel
Leaf spring
Pneumatic tyre
Chuggle for carrying water
Fuel expansion tank

EXAMPLES OF DESERT FORCES' INSIGNIA

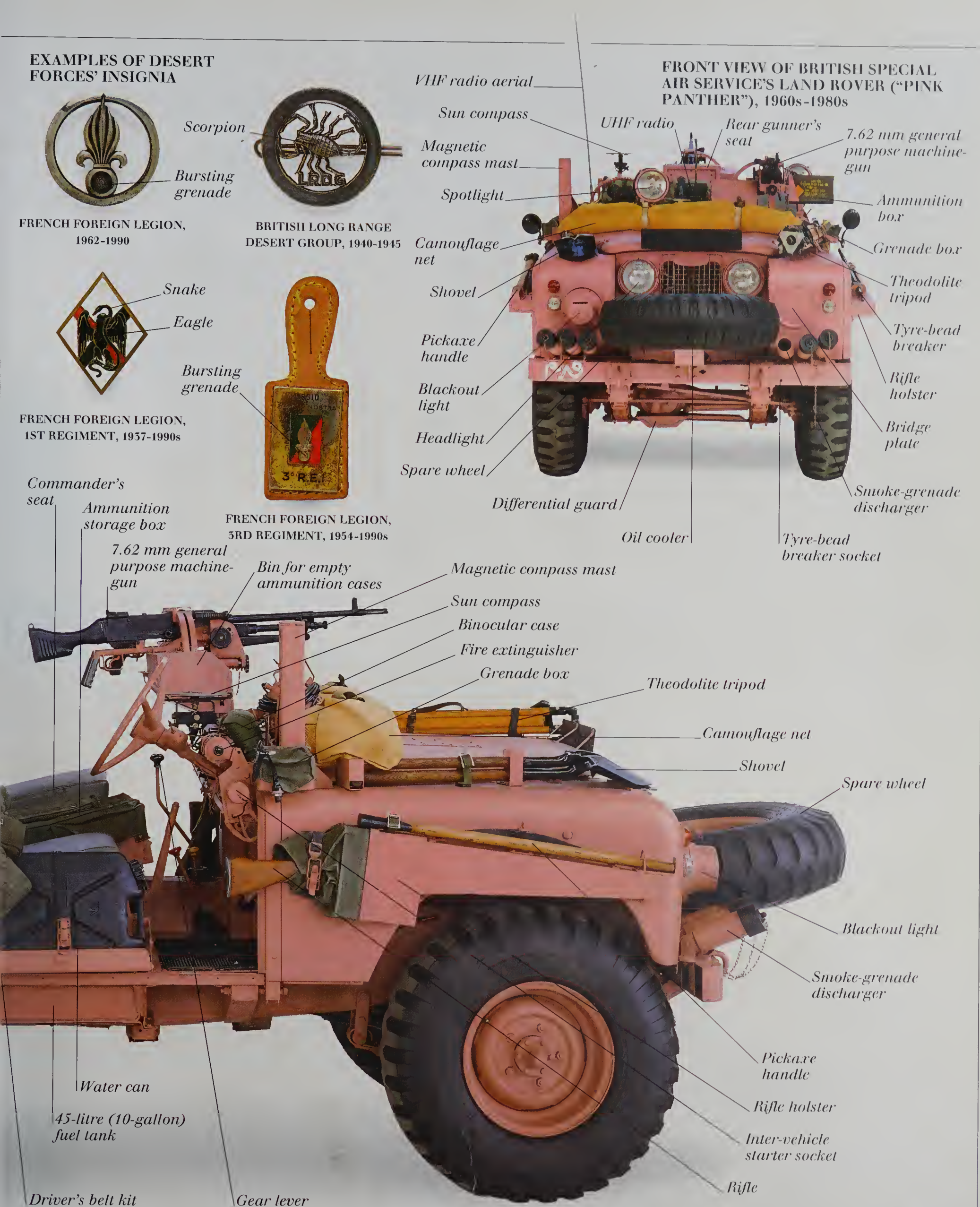
FRENCH FOREIGN LEGION, 1962-1990

BRITISH LONG RANGE DESERT GROUP, 1940-1945

FRENCH FOREIGN LEGION, 1ST REGIMENT, 1937-1990s

FRENCH FOREIGN LEGION, 3RD REGIMENT, 1954-1990s

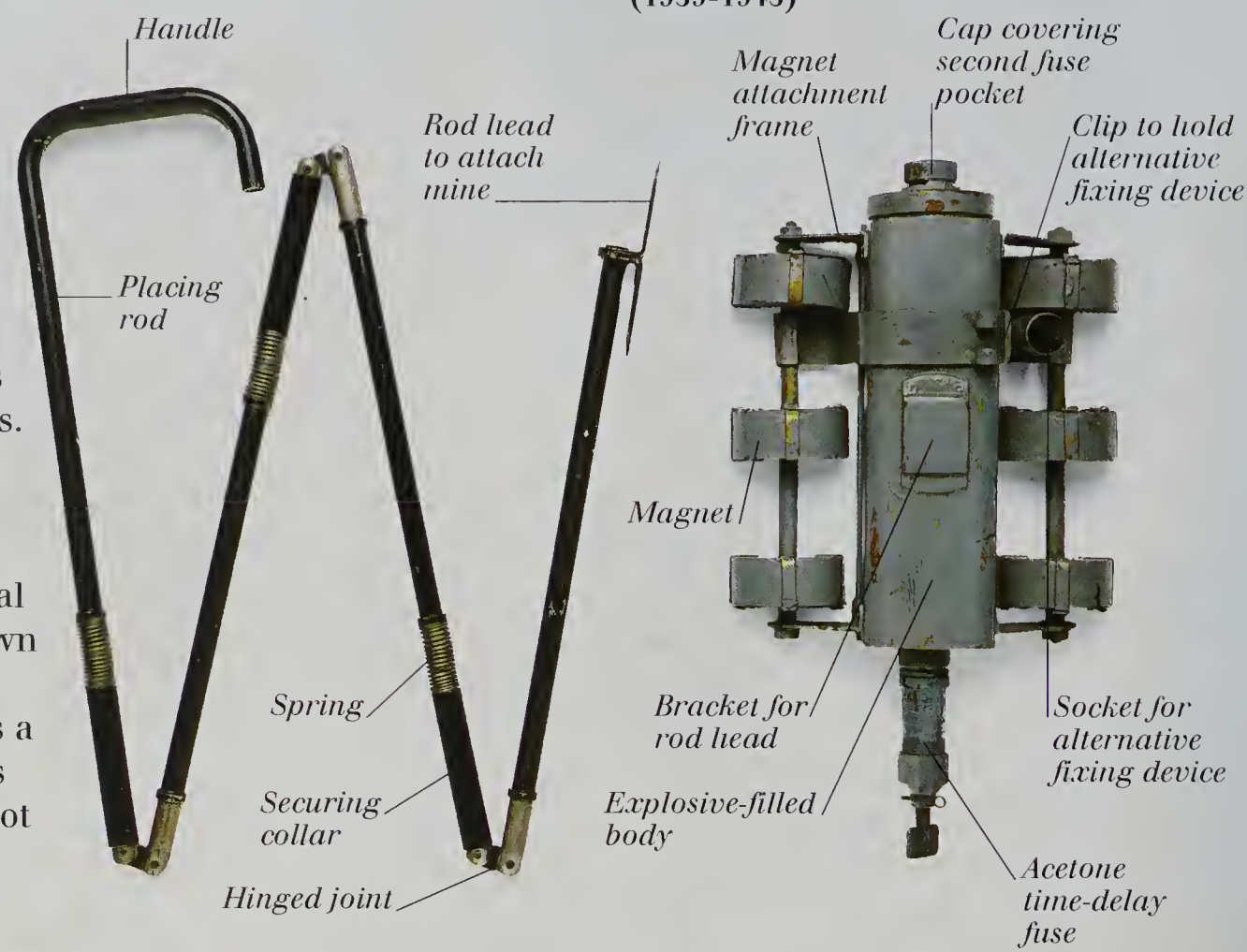
FRONT VIEW OF BRITISH SPECIAL AIR SERVICE'S LAND ROVER ("PINK PANTHER"), 1960s-1980s



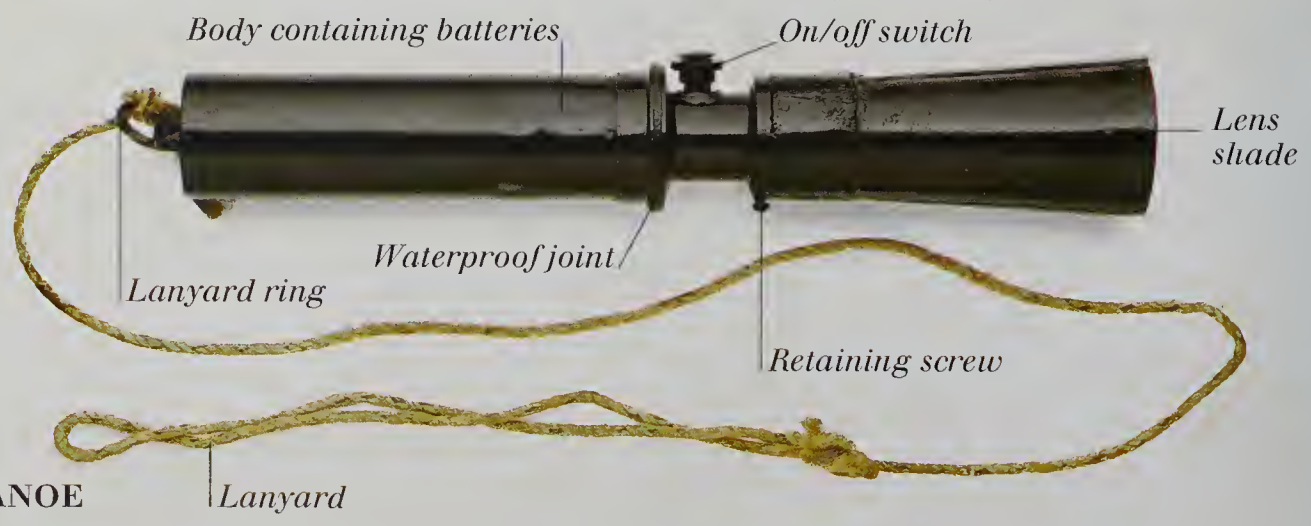
Covert amphibious forces

COVERT AMPHIBIOUS forces not only have to be expert at fighting on land and at sea, but also must be skilled at carrying out operations in the greatest secrecy. Their missions range from reconnaissance to attacks on enemy ships and harbour defences. Because of the clandestine nature of their operations, covert amphibious forces often use silent boats, such as canoes. During World War II, a special submersible craft was invented. Known as the "Sleeping Beauty", this vessel could function both as a canoe and as a mini-submarine. However, despite its versatility, the Sleeping Beauty was not widely used. Acts of sabotage carried out by covert amphibious forces often involve disabling enemy ships, typically by attaching limpet mines to the hulls. Various timing devices have been used to detonate such mines, including acetone time-delay fuses, which employ different concentrations of acetone to vary the length of time before the mine is detonated.

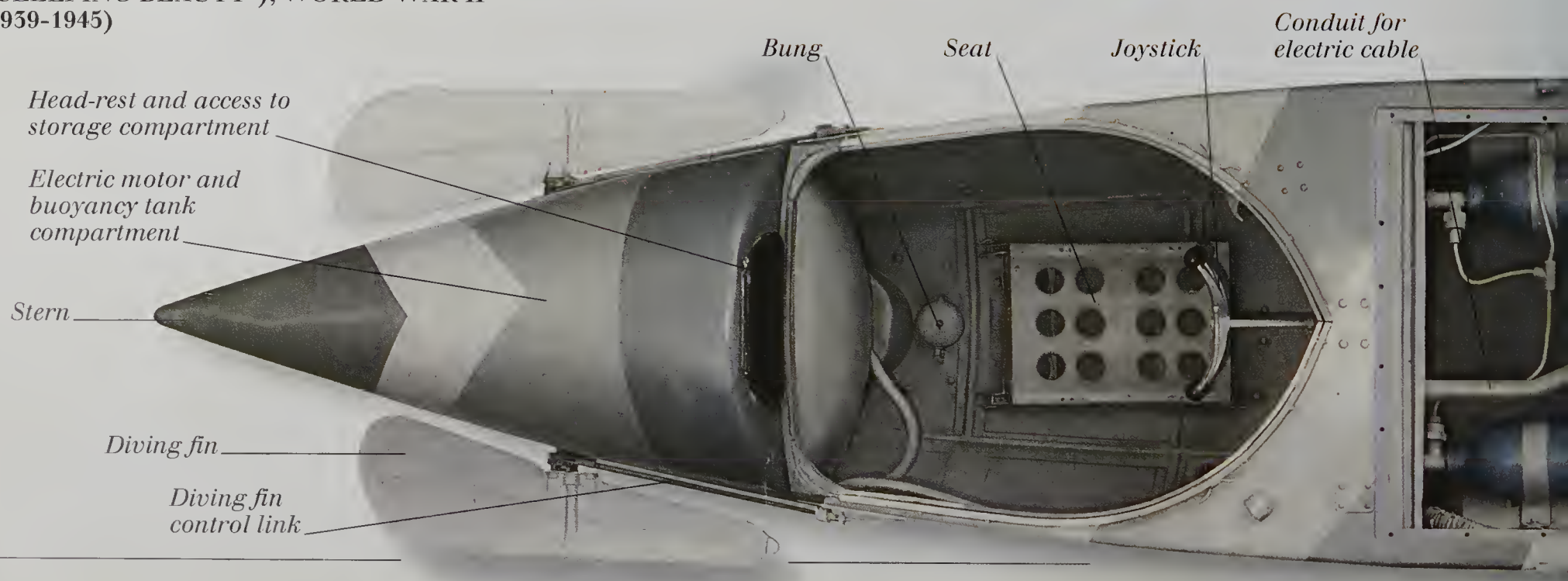
BRITISH LIMPET MINE AND PLACING ROD, WORLD WAR II (1939-1945)



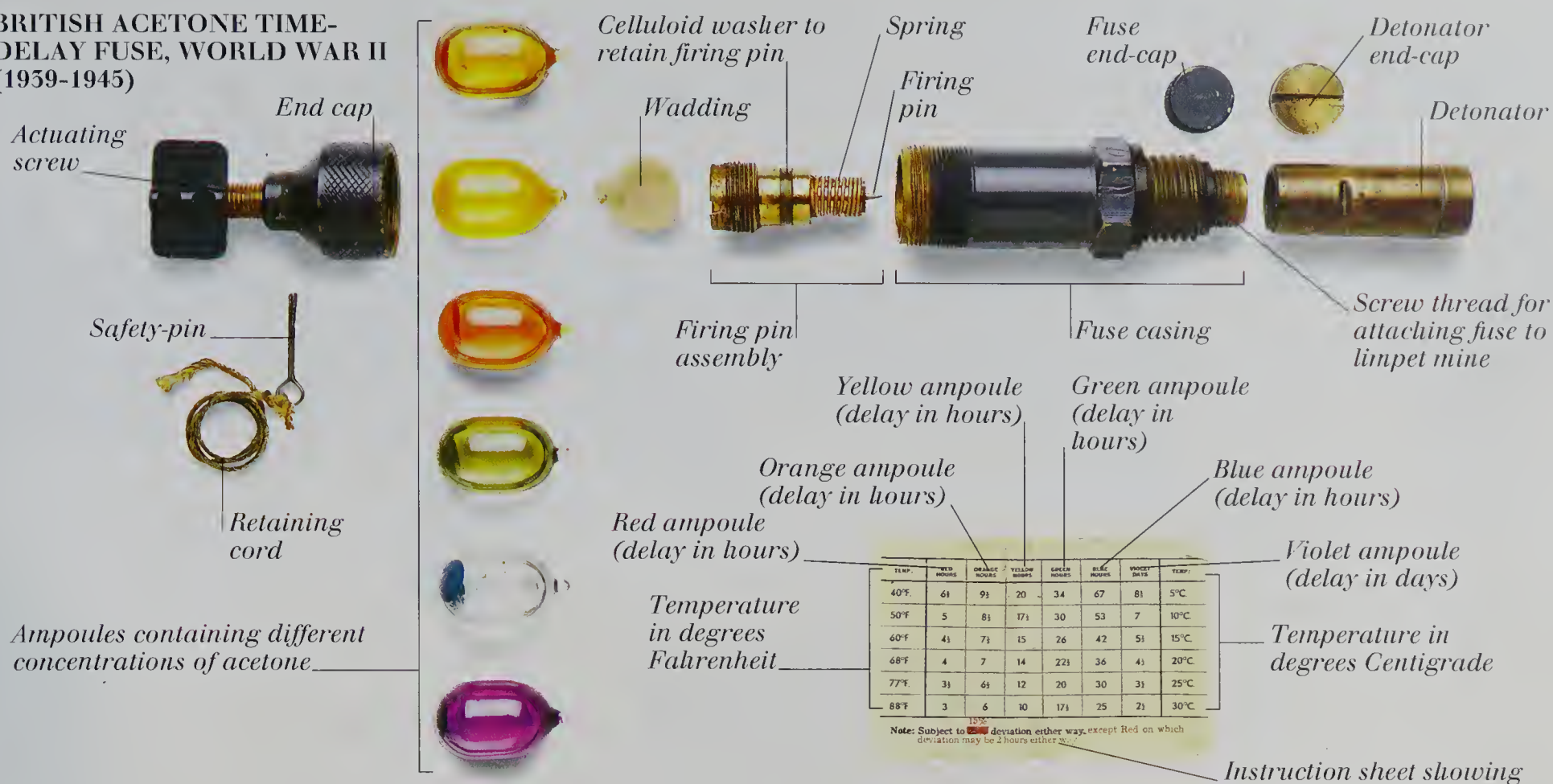
BRITISH WATERPROOF TORCH, WORLD WAR II (1939-1945)



BRITISH MOTORIZED SUBMERSIBLE CANOE ("SLEEPING BEAUTY"), WORLD WAR II (1939-1945)



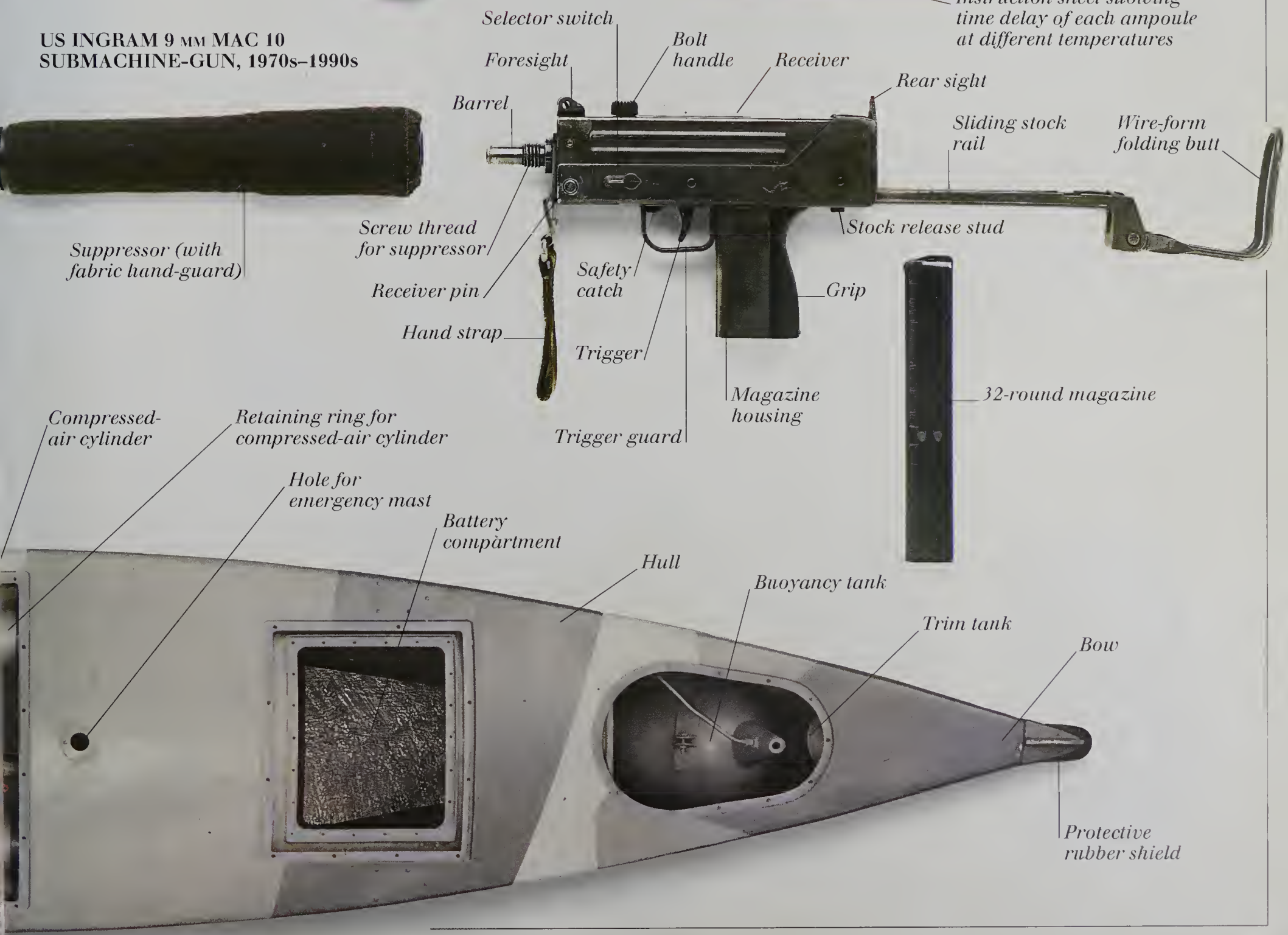
BRITISH ACETONE TIME-DELAY FUSE, WORLD WAR II (1939-1945)



TEMP.	RED HOURS	ORANGE HOURS	YELLOW HOURS	GREEN HOURS	BLUE HOURS	VIOLET DAYS	TEMP.
40°F.	6½	9½	20	34	67	8½	5°C.
50°F	5	8½	17½	30	53	7	10°C.
60°F	4½	7½	15	26	42	5½	15°C.
68°F	4	7	14	22½	36	4½	20°C.
77°F.	3½	6½	12	20	30	3½	25°C.
88°F	3	6	10	17½	25	2½	30°C.

Note: Subject to 15% deviation either way, except Red on which deviation may be 2 hours either way.

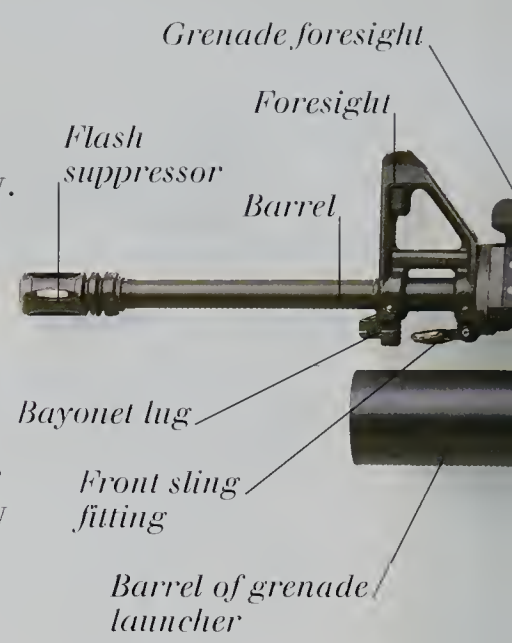
US INGRAM 9 MM MAC 10 SUBMACHINE-GUN, 1970s–1990s



Marines

FRENCH MARINE PARACHUTISTS' BADGE, 1970s

MARINES ARE TROOPS WHOSE PRIMARY TASK is to carry out amphibious (ship-to-shore) landings and establish beachheads on enemy territory. Most of the missions that marines undertake require special craft to transport them ashore. There are various types of such craft, and the type used depends on the situation. For secretly carrying small groups ashore, a fast, manoeuvrable, unarmoured boat may be used, such as the "Rigid Raider". For landing larger groups while under enemy fire, a heavy-duty amphibious vehicle is more suitable, such as the LVTP-7 Amtrac. This vehicle is launched from a ship and can carry 25 marines ashore in relative safety because it is armoured, as well as being armed with a machine-gun and smoke-grenade dischargers.



BRITISH "RIGID RAIDER", 1980s-1990s

US 5.56 MM M16A1 ASSAULT RIFLE FITTED WITH 40 MM M203 GRENADE LAUNCHER, 1960s-1990s

Windage adjustment screw
Bolt release catch
Plastic hand-guard
Quadrant sight for grenade launcher
Slip ring
Carrying handle
Cocking handle
Plastic butt
Grenade launcher barrel catch
Grenade launcher safety catch
Grenade launcher trigger
Rifle trigger
Rifle trigger guard
30-round magazine
Safety catch/ firing selector
Plastic pistol grip
Rear sling fitting

BRITISH FAIRBAIRN AND SYKES FIGHTING KNIFE, WORLD WAR II (1939-1945)

Pommel
Grip
Guard
Double-edged blade

US LVTP-7 AMPHIBIOUS TRACTOR (AMTRAC), 1970s-1990s

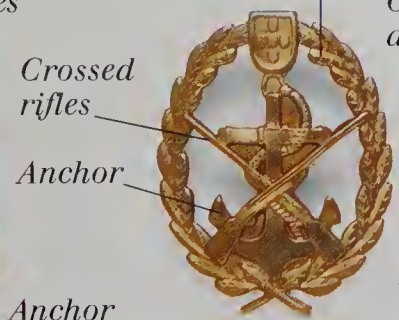
Aerial
Hydraulic ramp
Turbine exhaust
Steel hawser
Ramp hinge
Idler
Steel wheel
Axe
Spade
Rear hatch rail
Aluminium hull
Compartment for troops
Rubber tyre
Torsion bar
Suspension damper
Rubber pad
Turret hatch
Turret
Vision block
Aerial
Smoke-grenade discharger
Searchlight
Commander's cupola
Periscope
12.7 mm machine-gun
Driver's cupola
Vision block
Drive sprocket
Bolt-on rim
Caterpillar track

EXAMPLES OF MARINES' INSIGNIA

BRITAIN'S ROYAL MARINES, 1953-1990s

US MARINE CORPS, 1954-1990s

ITALIAN ARMY AMPHIBIOUS UNIT, 1964-1990s

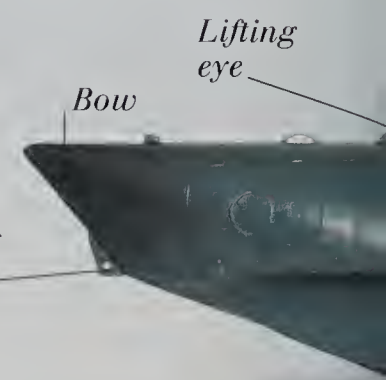


PORTUGUESE MARINE CORPS, 1986-1990s

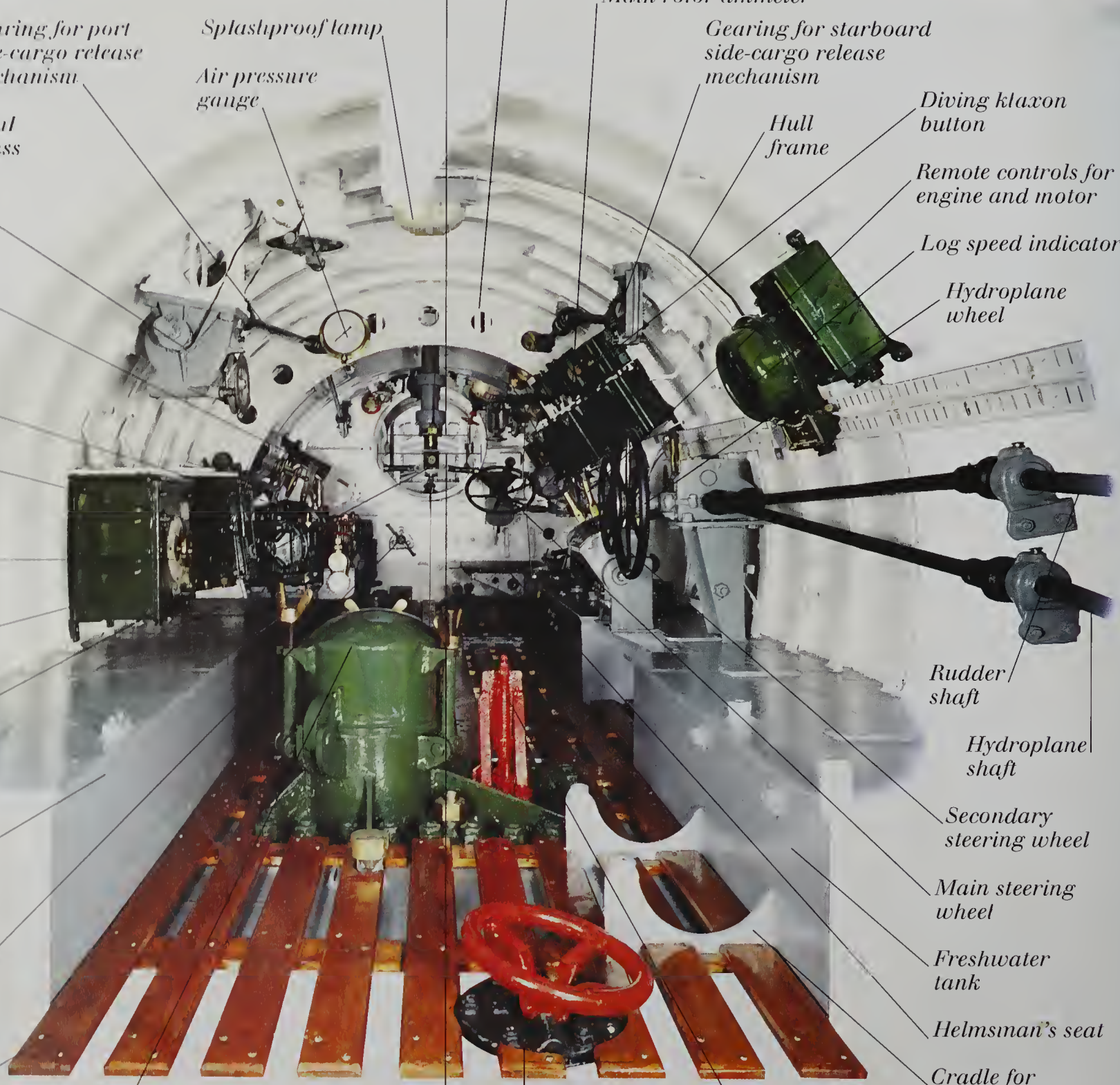
ROYAL NETHERLANDS MARINE CORPS, 1948-1990s

Subaqua forces

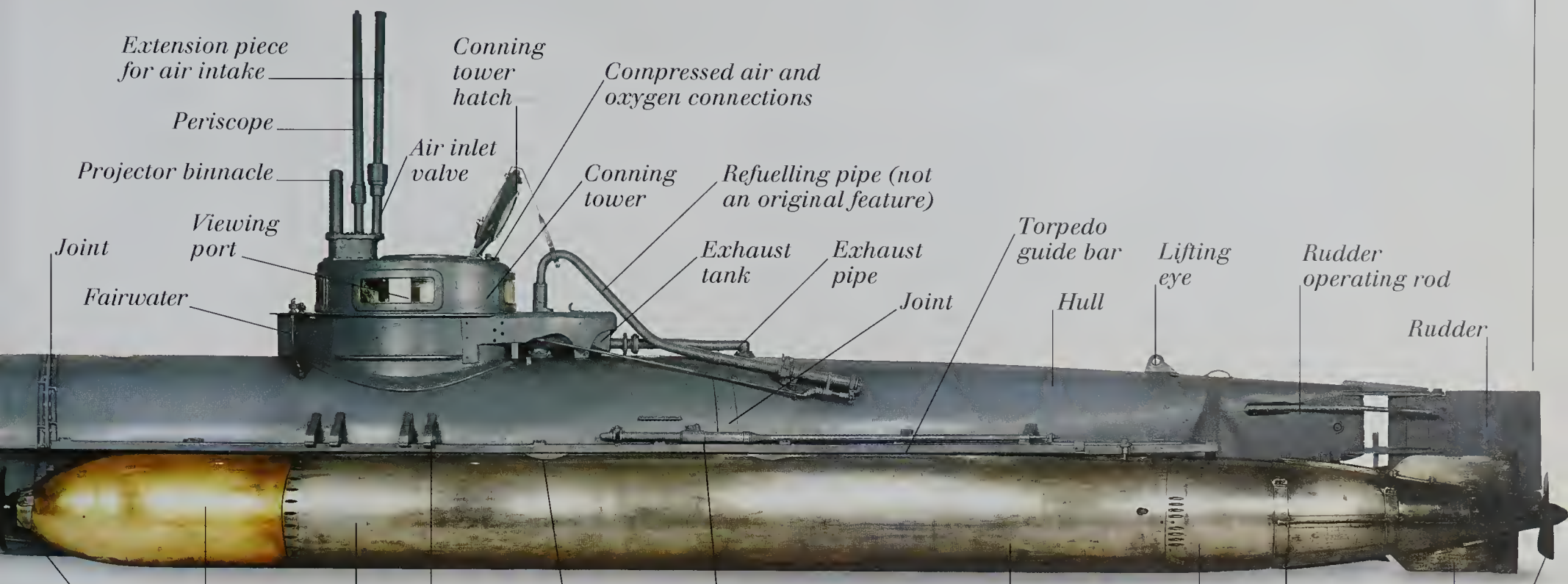
SUBAQUA FORCES ARE SPECIALLY TRAINED to perform underwater naval operations. During World War II, various submersibles were invented to secretly penetrate enemy harbour defences. The Italians produced the Maiale ("pig") "human torpedo", which was crewed by two frogmen who attached the torpedo's warhead to an enemy ship's hull. Four men crewed the British X-craft midget submarine, which carried two explosive charges and was a more advanced craft. Unlike these successful vessels, the design of the German Biber ("beaver") submarine was improvised and the craft was largely ineffective, despite being able to carry two full-size torpedoes. The vessels and other equipment used by modern subaqua forces are considerably more sophisticated. For example, frogmen often use special underwater breathing apparatus which does not release air bubbles that would otherwise reveal their position.



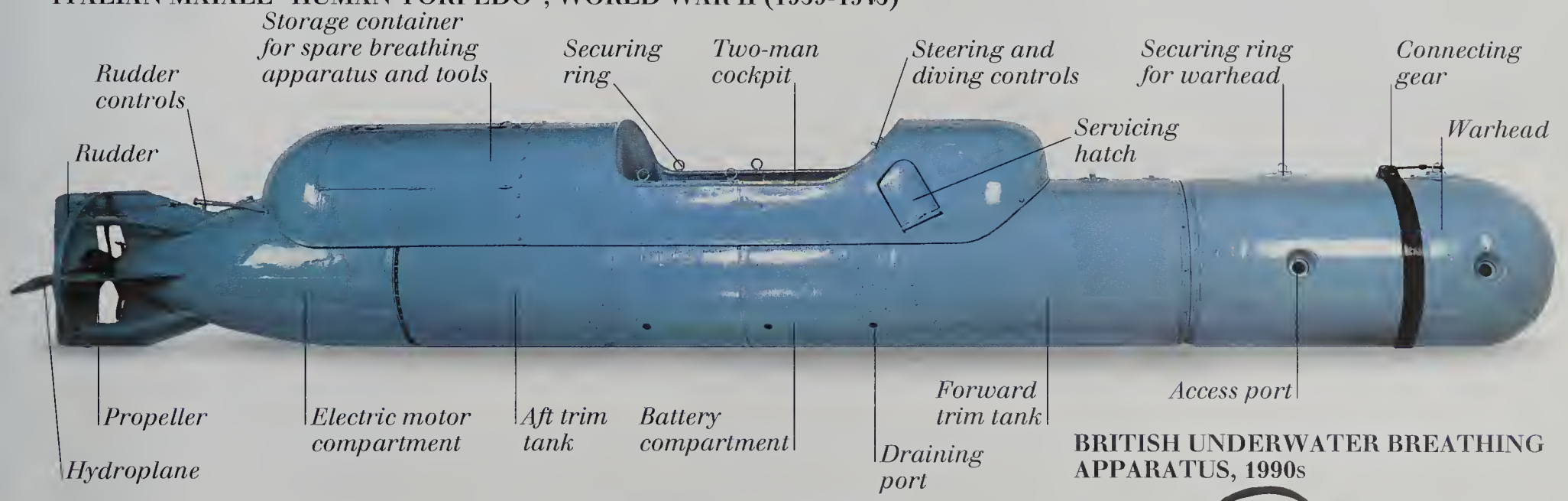
BRITISH X-CRAFT MIDGET SUBMARINE, WORLD WAR II (1939-1945)



GERMAN BIBER ONE-MAN SUBMARINE, WORLD WAR II (1939-1945)



ITALIAN MAIALE "HUMAN TORPEDO", WORLD WAR II (1939-1945)



EXAMPLES OF SUBAQUA FORCES' INSIGNIA

ROYAL CANADIAN NAVY CLEARANCE DIVER, 1940s-1960s

GERMAN NAVY SUBAQUA FORCES, 1944-1945

ITALIAN NAVY FROGMAN, 1980s-1990s

BRITISH UNDERWATER BREATHING APPARATUS, 1990s

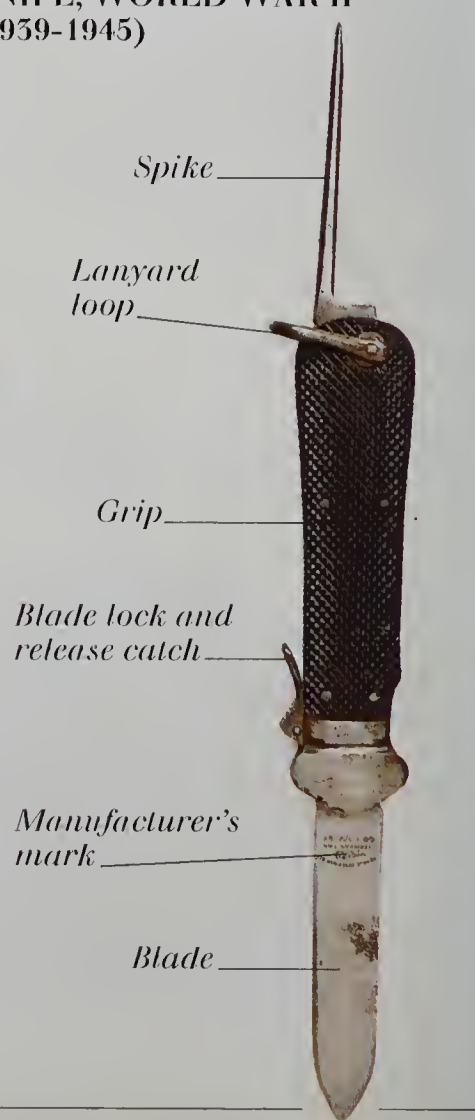
Parachutists 1

THE PRINCIPAL FUNCTION OF PARACHUTISTS is to land behind enemy lines to capture strategically important positions. Parachutists are equipped with two parachutes, a main one and an emergency one in case the main parachute fails to open. They are armed with lightweight and compact weapons, such as the US M1A1 carbine, which has a folding skeleton butt. The shortage of supplies and vehicles at the landing area is a major problem for parachutists invading enemy territory. However, this problem can usually be overcome by parachuting down equipment with the troops. For example, during World War II, containers holding weapons, ammunition, radios, and even folding motorcycles were parachuted down. Sometimes, larger vehicles were dropped by parachutes, such as the US jeep, which needed four parachutes to land undamaged.

FRENCH PARACHUTISTS' CLOTHING, 1970s-1990s

SOVIET PARACHUTISTS' RPG 7D ROCKET-PROPELLED GRENADE LAUNCHER AND PG-7 ROCKET-PROPELLED GRENADE, 1960s-1990s

BRITISH PARACHUTISTS' KNIFE, WORLD WAR II (1939-1945)



US PARACHUTISTS' .30 IN M1A1 CARBINE, 1940s-1950s

FRENCH FOREIGN LEGION INSIGNIA, 1970s

FRENCH FOREIGN LEGION ARM BADGE

FRENCH FOREIGN LEGION CHEST BADGE, 2ND PARACHUTE REGIMENT

FRENCH PARACHUTISTS' EQUIPMENT, 1970s

PARACHUTE EQUIPMENT ARRANGED FOR JUMP

EXAMPLES OF PARACHUTISTS' INSIGNIA

US PARACHUTIST, 1940s-1990s

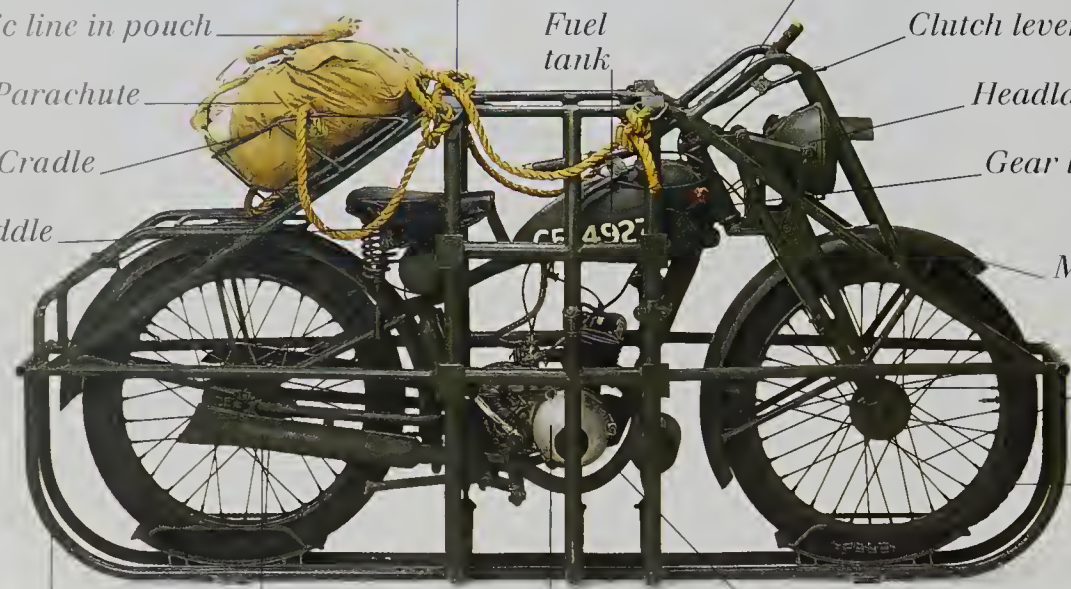
BRITISH ARMY PARACHUTIST, 1940-1990s

AUSTRALIAN SPECIAL AIR SERVICE PARACHUTIST, 1960s-1990s

CANADIAN ARMY PARACHUTIST, 1940s-1960s

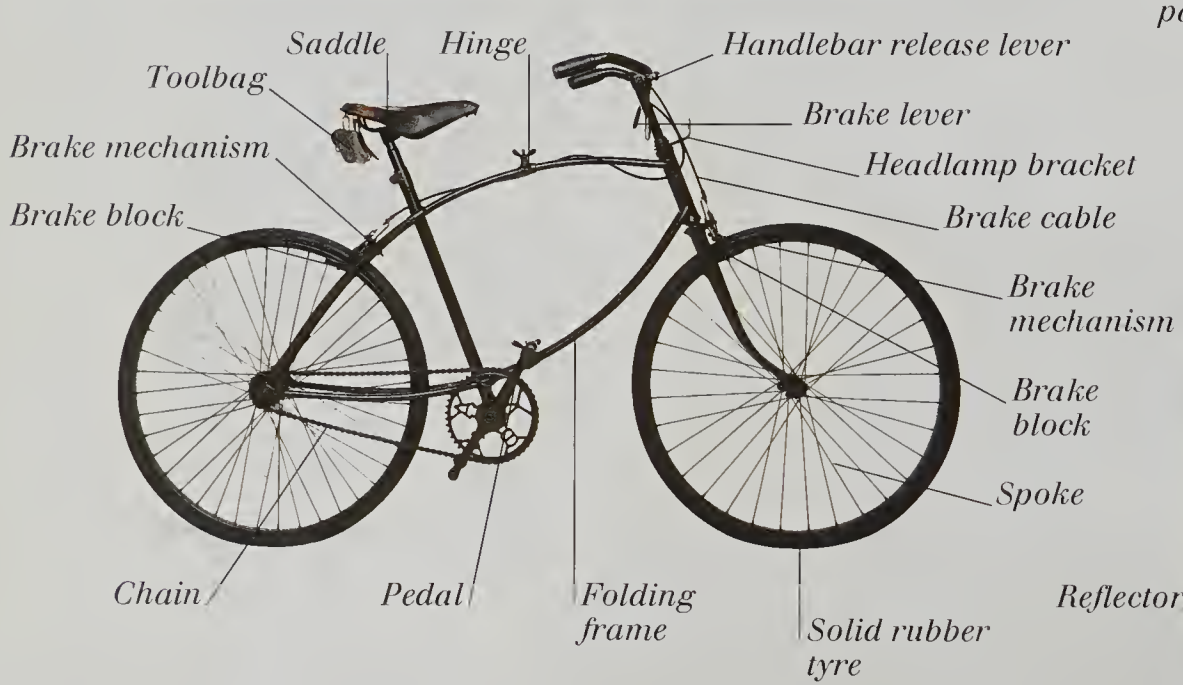
Parachutists 2

BRITISH PARADROPPABLE MOTORCYCLE, WORLD WAR II (1939-1945)

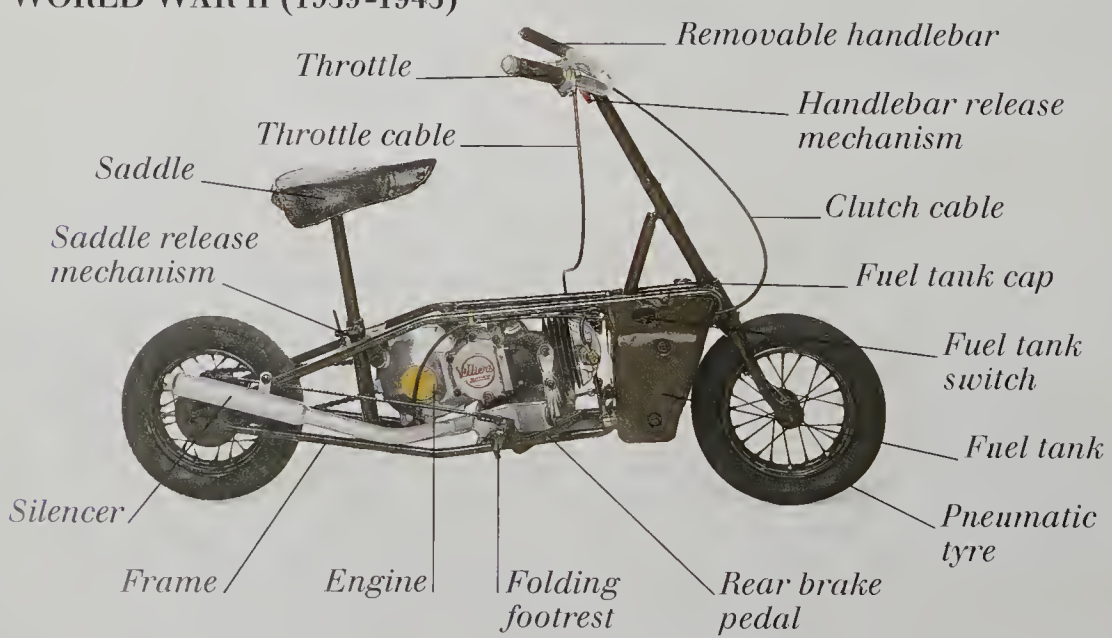


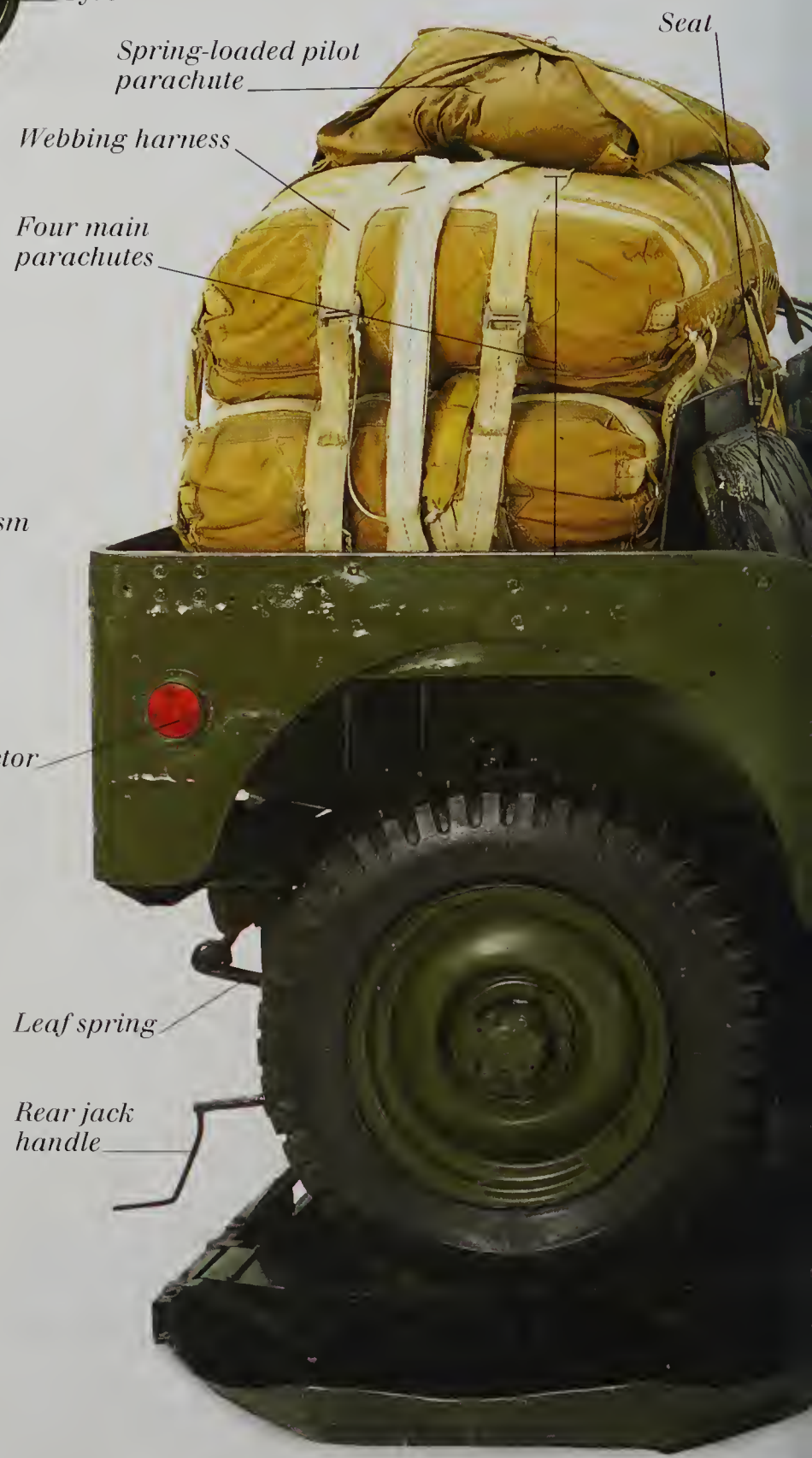
BRITISH EXPERIMENTAL STEN GUN CARRIER, WORLD WAR II (1939-1945)

BRITISH FOLDING BICYCLE, WORLD WAR II (1939-1945)

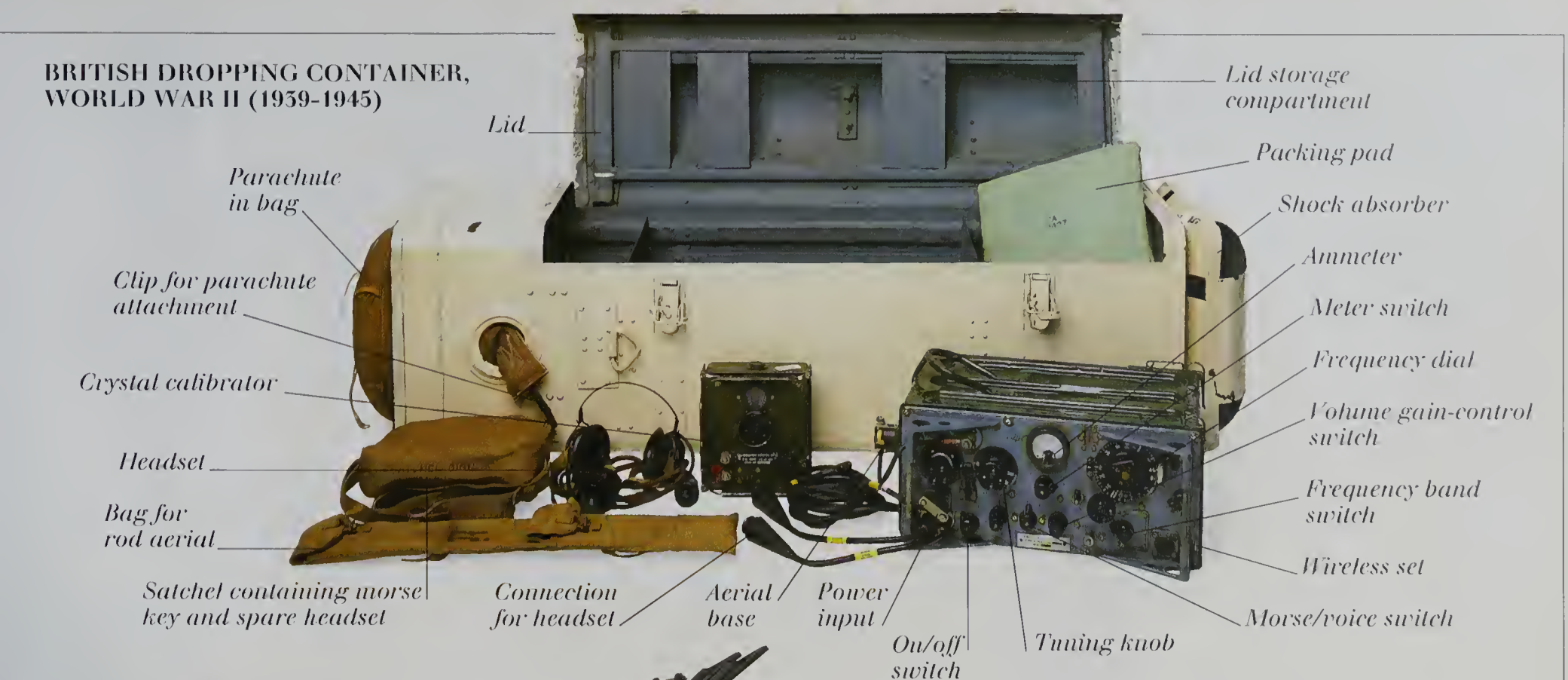


BRITISH FOLDING MOTORCYCLE (WELBIKE), WORLD WAR II (1939-1945)

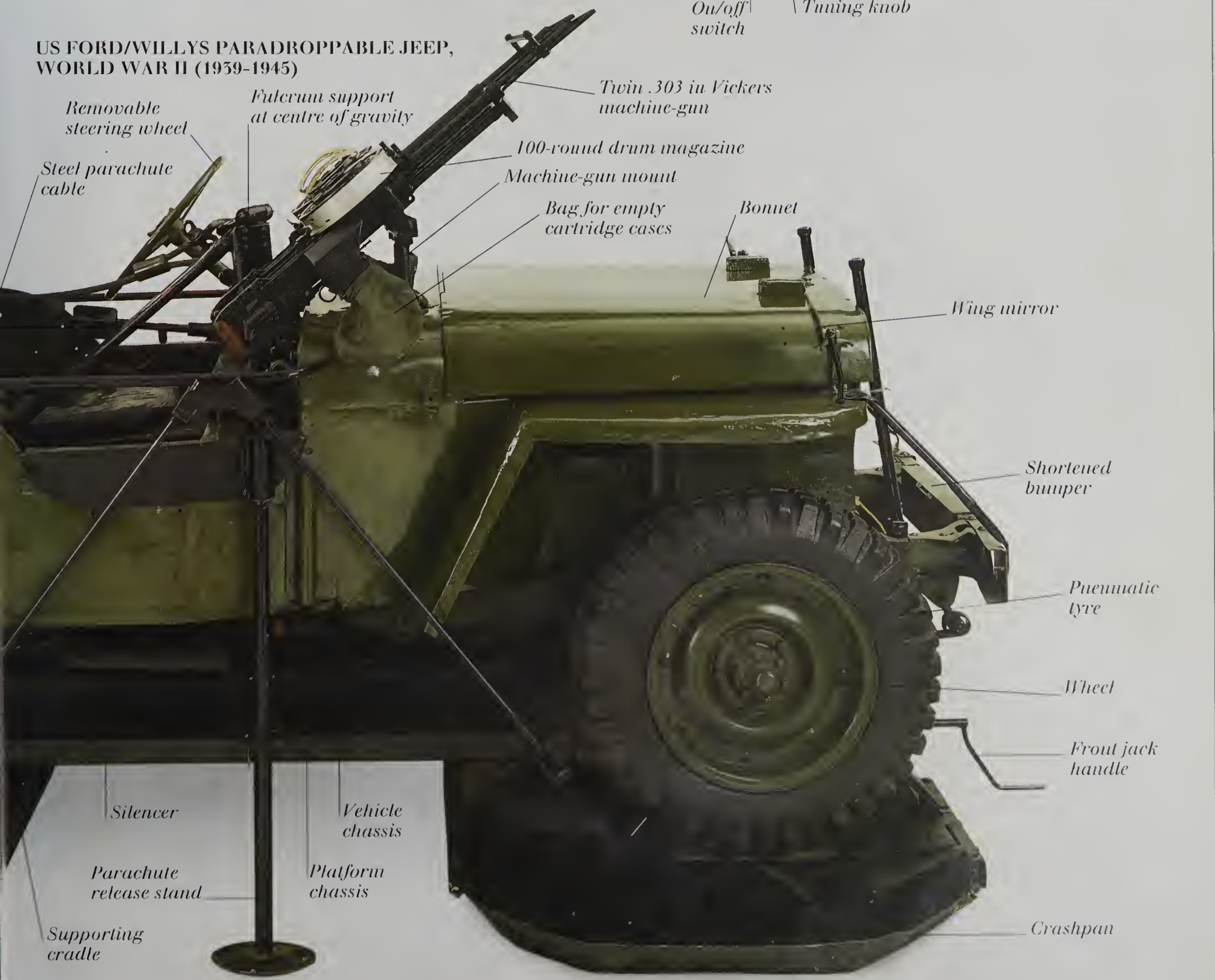




BRITISH DROPPING CONTAINER, WORLD WAR II (1939-1945)



US FORD/WILLYS PARADROPPABLE JEEP, WORLD WAR II (1939-1945)



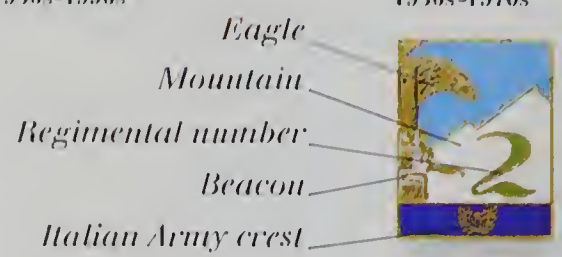
Mountain forces

THE ARMED FORCES OF MANY NATIONS have groups specially trained in techniques of mountain warfare. These groups have to be skilled at climbing and at surviving in hostile mountain conditions, as well as being able to fight effectively in the difficult terrain. Mountain forces often use weapons that are specially adapted for the terrain. Howitzers are particularly suitable weapons for mountain warfare because the barrel can be raised high enough to fire over peaks. As it is difficult to transport standard artillery in remote mountainous regions, specially modified guns are used. For example, the 3.7-inch mountain howitzer shown here has been adapted so that it can be broken down into eight parts, each of which is light enough to be carried by a mule.

EXAMPLES OF MOUNTAIN FORCES' INSIGNIA

GERMAN ARMY, 24TH MOUNTAIN BRIGADE, 1950s–1990s

FRENCH ARMY, 159TH ALPINE REGIMENT, 1950s–1970s

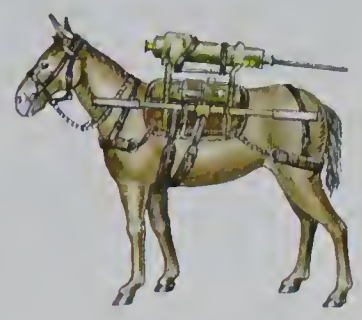


ITALIAN ARMY, 2ND ALPINE ARTILLERY REGIMENT, 1960s–1990s

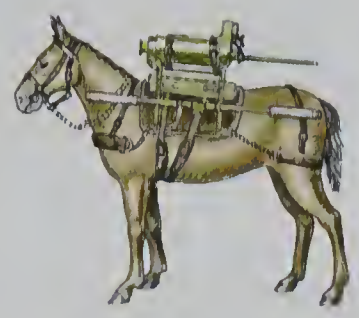
BRITISH 3.7 IN MARK IV MOUNTAIN HOWITZER, WORLD WAR II (1939–1945)

Shield
Bore
Securing ring
Stop ring
Muzzle
Junction nut
Slipper
Rocking bar sight
Dial sight bracket
Cradle cap
Range drum
Firing lever
Cradle
Breech ring
Lifting loop
Carrier
Traversing handle
Pneumatic tyre
Firing mechanism cover
Wheel
Breech mechanism lever
Wheel release handle
Shackle for drag rope
Drag washer
Rammer
Firing lever bracket
Elevating hand-wheel
Lifting handle
Wheel lock
Front carriage trail

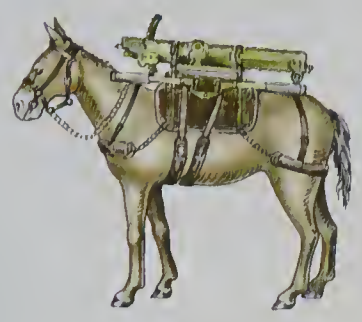
DISASSEMBLED MOUNTAIN HOWITZER ON MULE TEAM



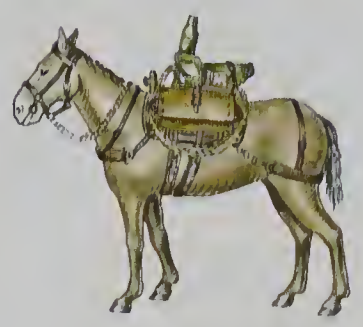
HOWITZER BORE



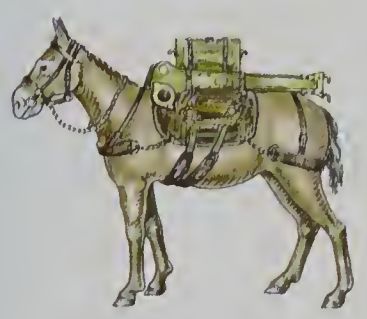
HOWITZER BREECH



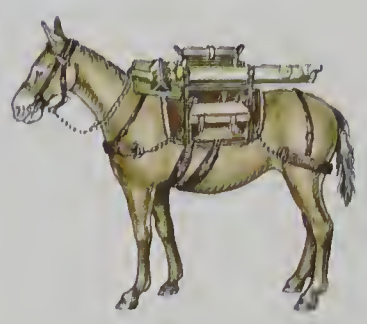
HOWITZER CRADLE



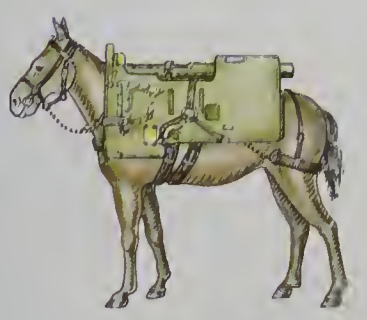
HOWITZER PIVOT



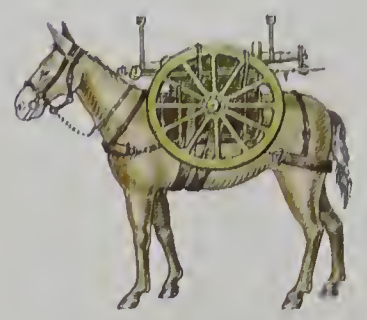
HOWITZER FRONT CARRIAGE TRAIL



HOWITZER REAR CARRIAGE TRAIL



HOWITZER SHIELD AND SLIPPER

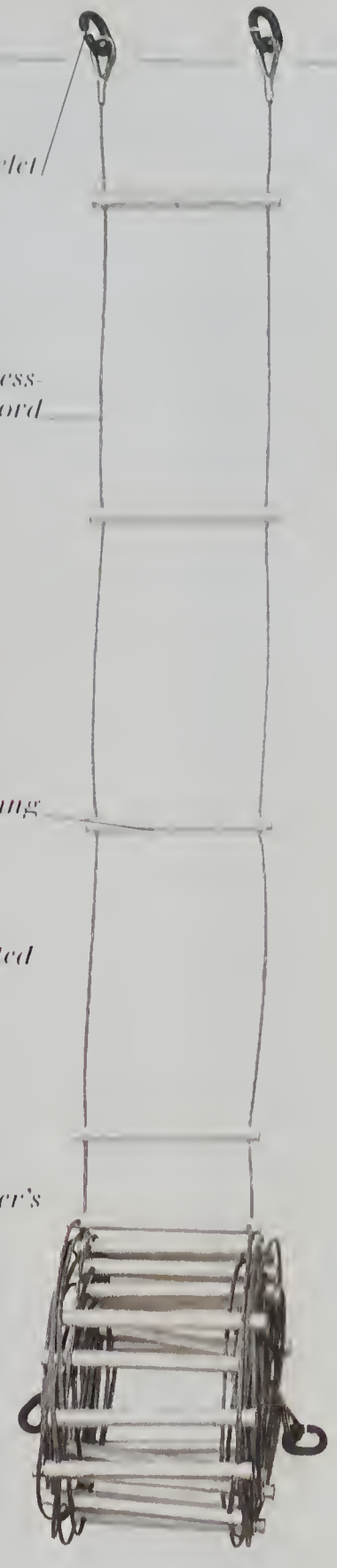


HOWITZER WHEELS AND AXLE

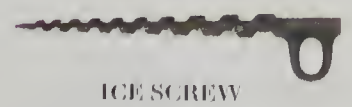
CLIMBING EQUIPMENT, 1990s

CLIMBING ROPE

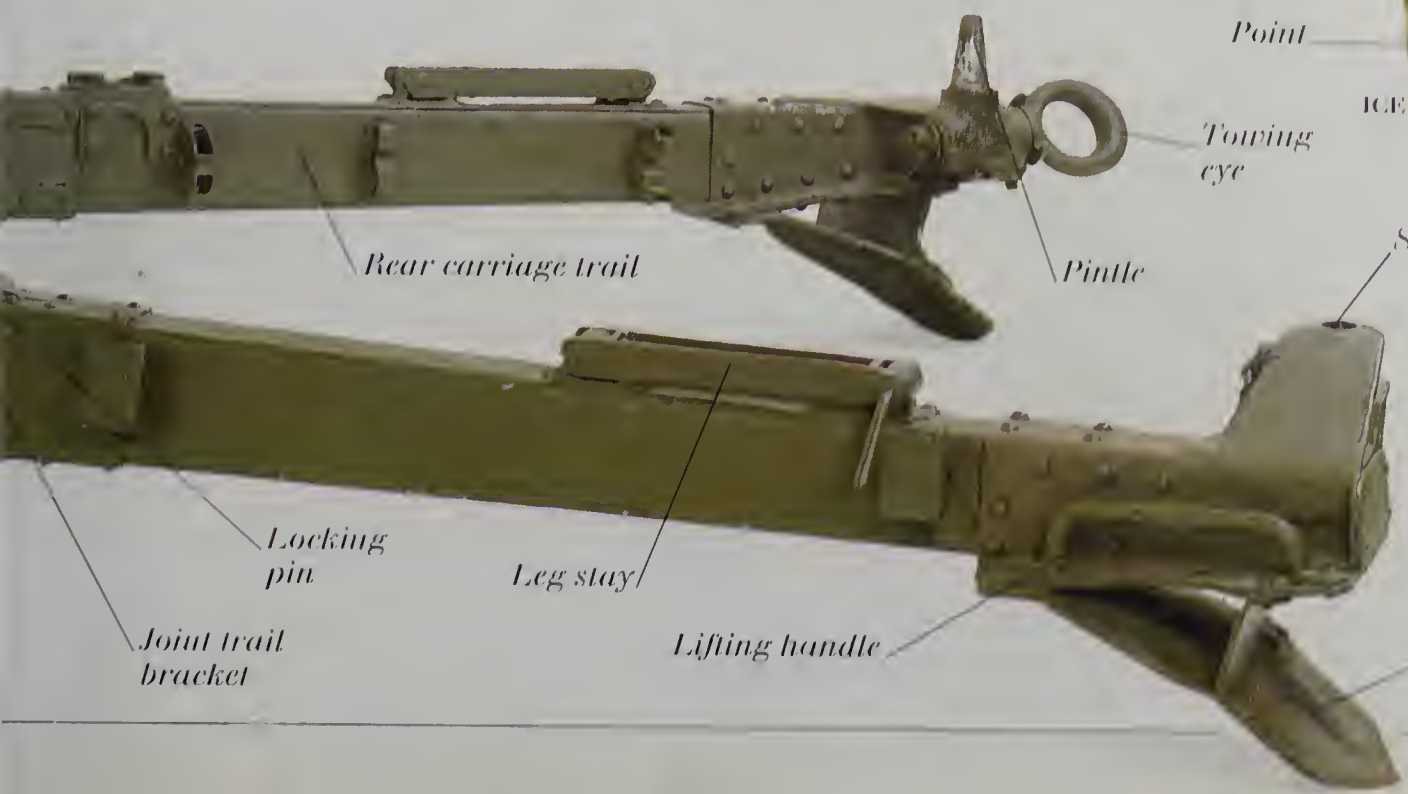
ICE AXE

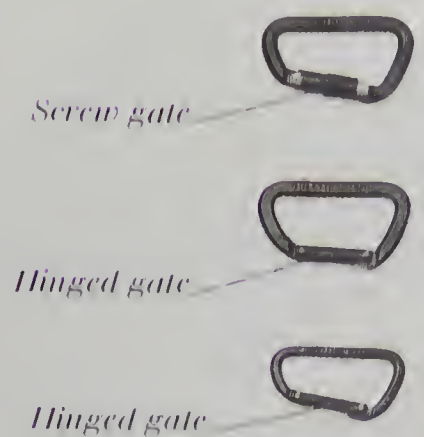


STAINLESS-STEEL LADDER



ICE SCREW



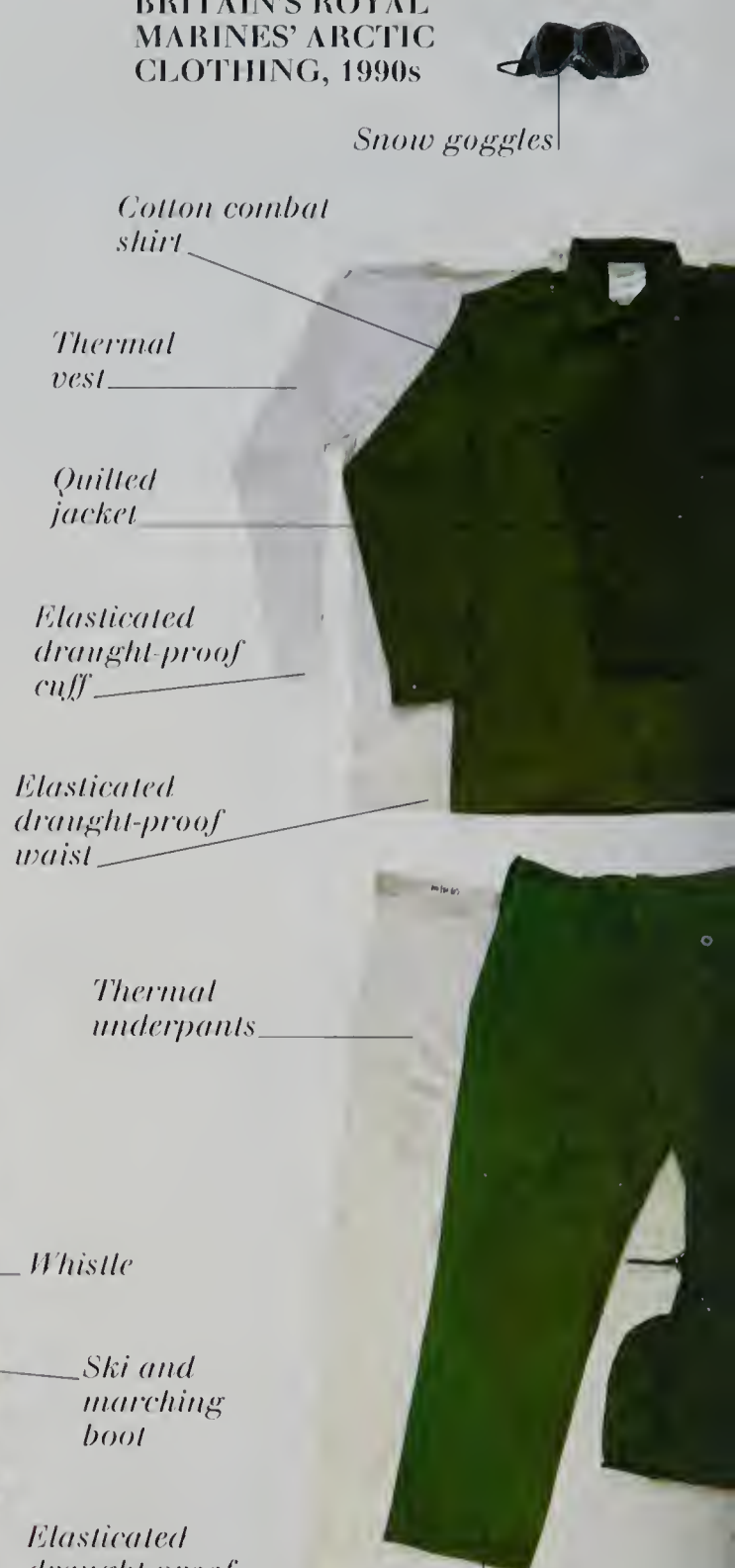


KARABINERS

Arctic forces

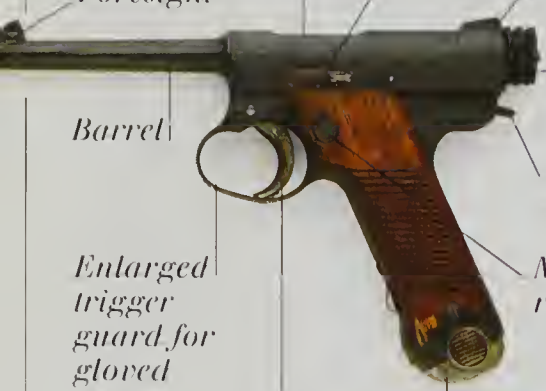
THE ICY WILDERNESSES OF THE ARCTIC and Antarctic regions are among the most demanding environments in the world for military operations. In these regions, temperatures of -40°C (-40°F) are common, and the most important consideration is to ensure that troops keep warm enough to operate effectively. Consequently, the soldiers eat a high-energy diet and wear many layers of clothing, from an inner layer of thermal underwear to an outer snow-camouflage parka and trousers. They are also equipped with dark goggles to prevent snow-blindness, face masks, insulated footwear, two or more pairs of gloves, and skis. Some weapons have been modified to make them suitable for use by Arctic forces. For example, the Finnish Lahti anti-tank rifle is fitted with short skis for towing over snow and ice, and the Japanese Taisho pistol has an enlarged trigger guard so that it can be used when wearing thick gloves.

BRITAIN'S ROYAL MARINES' ARCTIC CLOTHING, 1990s

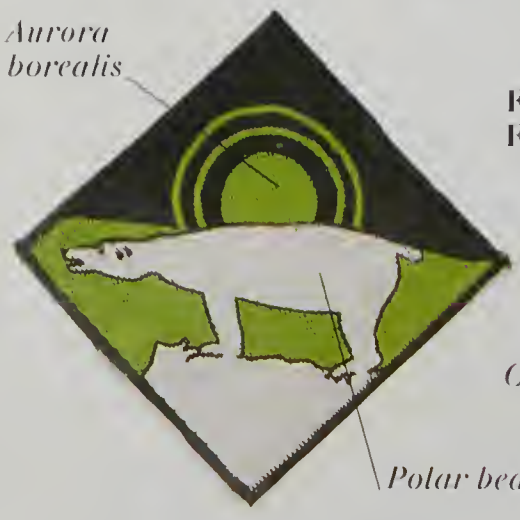


BRITAIN'S ROYAL MARINES' ARCTIC FOOTWEAR, 1990s

JAPANESE TAISHO 14 8 MM AUTOMATIC PISTOL, WORLD WAR II (1939-1945)



EXAMPLES OF ARCTIC FORCES' INSIGNIA



NORWEGIAN ARCTIC UNIT, 15TH ROYAL REGIMENT, 1950s-1990s

BRITAIN'S ROYAL MARINES MOUNTAIN AND ARCTIC CADRE, MOUNTAIN LEADER, 1981-1990s

ROYAL NETHERLANDS MARINE CORPS, ARCTIC UNIT, 1970s-1991

BRITAIN'S ROYAL MARINES' SKI EQUIPMENT, 1990s

Wire-framed hood
Protective face mask
Hood
Contact gloves
Rubber-dot grips
Ski ring
Snow-camouflage outer parka
Wrist band
Waterproof mittens
Woollen mittens
Waterproof and windproof parka
Spring and strap fittings for boots
Quilted trousers
Snow-camouflage outer trousers
Handgrip
Waterproof and windproof trousers
Velcro fastening
Ski poles
Skis
Ski skins for gripping snow when going uphill

FINNISH LAHTI 20 MM L39 ANTI-TANK RIFLE, WORLD WAR II (1939-1945)

10-round magazine
Rear sight
Foresight
Cover for magazine housing
Magazine release catch
Safety lever
Wooden cheek-rest
Gas port
Piston tube
Rubber recoil pad
Cocking handle
Bipod
Pistol grip
Ski bipod
Trigger
Trigger guard
Short ski
Grip safety

Snipers

MANY SPECIAL FORCES HAVE SNIPERS who are trained to shoot at selected targets from a concealed position. As well as being a good marksman, a sniper must be an expert in concealment in order to take the target unaware. Camouflage-patterned clothing, such as the modern gillie suit, helps to disguise the sniper because it breaks up the outline of the body. Sniper rifles used to be standard rifles fitted with telescopic sights, such as the World War I Canadian Ross rifle. Later, however, rifles were developed specifically for snipers; examples include the Japanese Type 97 and the Soviet Dragunov rifles. Modern sniper rifles are extremely accurate and are made of new materials, including plastics. The latest weapons, such as the German Heckler and Koch sniper's rifle, can be adjusted to suit the individual sniper's requirements.

BRITISH SNIPER'S CAMOUFLAGE (GILLIE SUIT), 1990s

Neck cover
Helmet cover
Face veil
Jacket
Drawstring
Binoculars
Rifle sling
Elasticated cuff
Glove
Sniper rifle with telescopic sight
9 mm pistol
Secateurs
Telescope
Lens cleaning cloth
Camouflage cream
Oil bottle
Rifle magazine
Pistol magazine
Cleaning cloth
Rifle pull-through
Prismatic compass
Knee pad
Trousers
Pocket

BRITISH SNIPER'S CAMOUFLAGE, WORLD WAR I (1914-1918)

Integral hood
Slit for eye
Neck fastening
Hole for breathing
Face flap for tucking into collar
Cuff
Belt
Hand-painted camouflage

Sniper's mitten
Trigger finger
Thumb

GERMAN HECKLER AND KOCH 7.62 MM PSG1 SNIPER'S RIFLE, 1990s

Cocking handle
Barrel
Sling swivel
Sling
Shoulder pad

CANADIAN ROSS .303 IN MK III SNIPER'S RIFLE, WORLD WAR I (1914-1918)

JAPANESE 6.5 MM TYPE 97 SNIPER'S RIFLE, c.1937

SOVIET DRAGUNOV 7.62 MM SNIPER'S RIFLE, c.1963

Special military vehicles

SPECIAL FORCES USUALLY OPERATE IN SMALL GROUPS and are often sent on missions to areas that are inaccessible to large contingents of conventional troops. Furthermore, the areas to which they are sent are often extremely inhospitable, with difficult terrain and harsh climates, such as deserts, mountains, and jungles. To transport people and equipment to such areas, and to operate effectively when they are there, special forces need vehicles that are reliable and adaptable. The US High-Mobility, Multipurpose Wheeled Vehicle ("HUMVEE" or "HUMMER") has a four-wheel drive that enables it to be used in even the roughest conditions. It may also be adapted for other functions, such as that of an ambulance, a communications vehicle, or an armament carrier. The US "Huey" helicopter was one of the first to be used specifically for military assaults. The Huey was used during the Vietnam War to land special forces in isolated jungle areas, as well as being used by conventional troops and as a helicopter gunship. For some covert missions, special forces may use lightweight boats, such as the Klepper Kayak, used by Britain's Special Boat Service. This kayak can be disassembled easily so that it can be carried by hand or dropped by parachute.

US UH-1 ("HUEY") HELICOPTER, 1960s-1990s

US HIGH-MOBILITY, MULTIPURPOSE WHEELED VEHICLE ("HUMVEE" OR "HUMMER"), 1980s-1990s

M60 7.62 mm machine-gun
Machine-gun mount
Aerial
Aerial mount
Wing mirror
Air filter
Cargo hood attachment
Front air-lift bracket
Side marker light
Reflector
Side marker light
Reflector
Front lift shackle
Pneumatic tyre
Side armour plate
Rear air-lift bracket
Fuel cap
Ballistic door
Ring mount for gun
Seatbelt
FM radio
Bonnet latch

FM communications aerial
Tail rotor
Main rotor blade
Tail rotor gearbox
Vertical fin
Synchronized elevator
Drive shaft casing
Tail boom
Aft position light
Tail skid
Navigation aerial

BRITISH KLEPPER KAYAK, 1960s-1990s

Spray deck tie
Body ring
Spray deck clamp
Spray deck
Paddle securing strap
Keel tension bracket
Lacing eye
Paddle pocket
Painter
Bailer
Keel
Paddle
Outer skin
Lifting eye
Stern
Bow

Military surveillance

ARMED FORCES OFTEN USE clandestine surveillance – secret observation – to discover an enemy's movements and plans. There are two main groups of surveillance equipment: listening devices (commonly known as bugs), and visual surveillance equipment. Listening devices essentially consist of a microphone and transmitter. Such devices are small enough to be hidden inside many everyday objects, such as batteries or electric plugs. When in place, the listening device picks up sounds and transmits them to a listening post, which may be several kilometres away. Visual surveillance devices include relatively simple monoculars and cameras fitted with telephoto lenses, such as the Soviet Foto-Sniper camera, which may be used to obtain detailed photographs of distant objects. More sophisticated devices include night-vision goggles and special binocular telescopes fitted with electronic image-intensifiers that amplify ambient light so that it is possible to see in almost complete darkness.

YELLOW FILTER

ORANGE FILTER

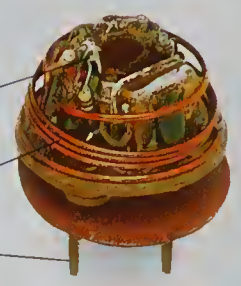
ULTRAVIOLET FILTER

GREEN FILTER

YELLOW FILTER

US ELECTRIC PLUG CONTAINING LISTENING DEVICE, 1960s

Electric plug casing



Listening device

Aerial

Pin

US BATTERY INTERIOR CONTAINING LISTENING DEVICE, 1960s

Positive terminal

Inner battery casing

Aerial

Listening device

BRITISH MINIATURE MONOCULAR, WORLD WAR II (1939-1945)

Brass body

Eyepiece

SOVIET FOTO-SNIPER SURVEILLANCE CAMERA, 1960s-1970s

300 mm telephoto lens

Lens aperture ring

Kalimar SR-200 single lens reflex camera

Rubber eyecup

Spare 58 mm lens

Camera body locking mount

Rubber lens hood

Shoulder strap fitting

Focusing ring

Securing device for holding lens to shoulder stock

Shutter-release trigger mechanism

Shutter-release trigger

Shoulder stock attachment

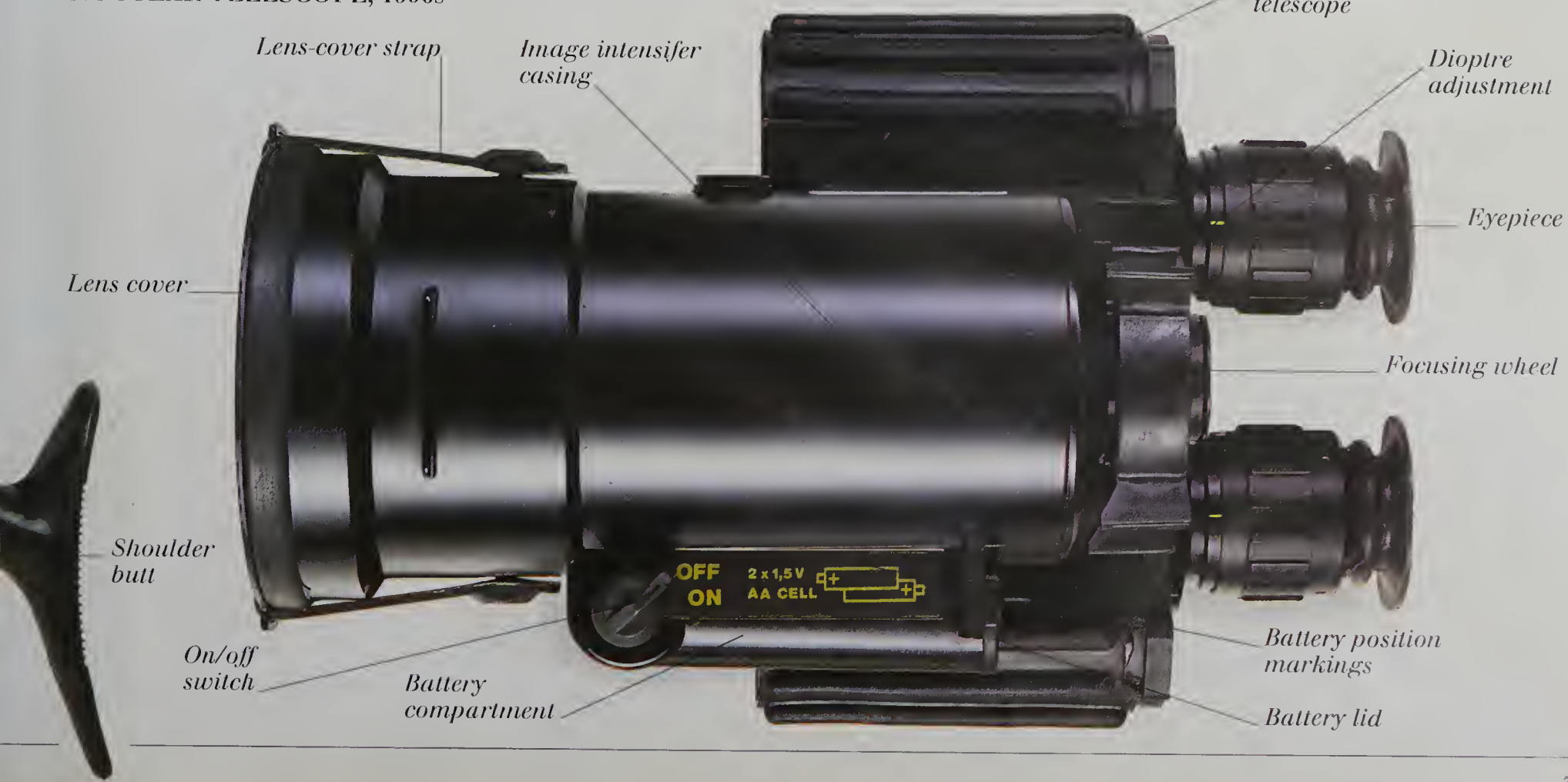
Pistol grip

Removable shoulder stock

Shoulder strap fitting

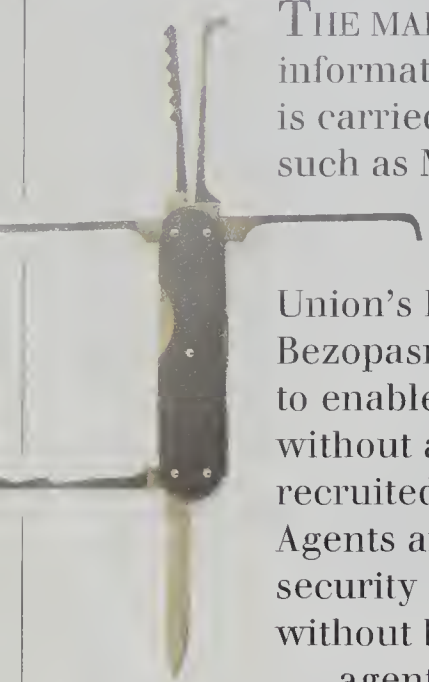
DUTCH NIGHT-VISION GOGGLES, 1990s

BRITISH SIMRAD DAY- AND NIGHT-VISION BINOCULAR TELESCOPE, 1990s



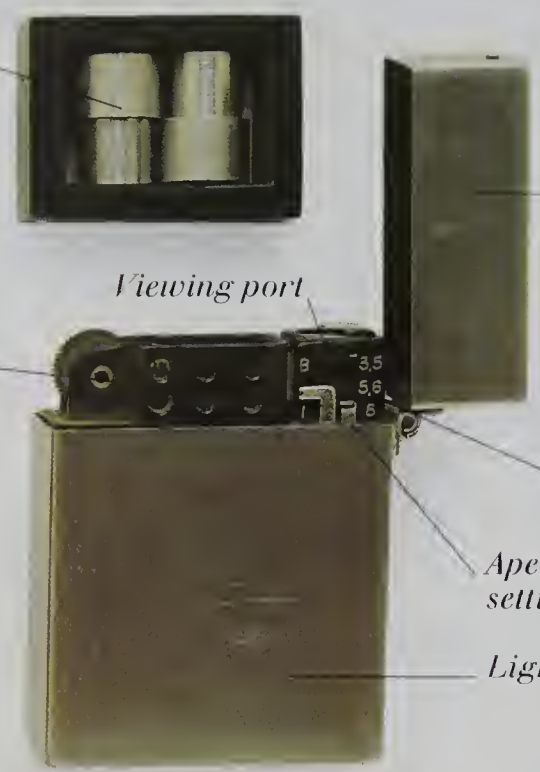
Espionage 1

THE MAIN PURPOSE OF ESPIONAGE is to gain secret information about an enemy. This clandestine work is carried out by agents of intelligence organizations, such as MI6 (the British Secret Service), the CIA (the US Central Intelligence Agency), and the former Soviet Union's KGB (the Komitat Gosudarstvennoi Bezopasnosti). Such agents may be given false identities to enable them to move around freely in enemy territory without arousing suspicion. In some cases, they may be recruited from among the ranks of the enemy itself. Agents are trained in techniques of infiltrating high-security establishments and gathering information without being detected. To help them in these tasks, agents are often equipped with a variety of specially designed devices, such as concealed or disguised cameras and tape-recorders, lockpicks, and portable photocopying machines.



US LOCKPICK KNIFE, WORLD WAR II (1939-1945)

JAPANESE ECHO 8 CIGARETTE LIGHTER CAMERA, 1950s



FRENCH ESPIONAGE CAMERA, WORLD WAR II (1939-1945)

US INTELLIGENCE SERVICES' PHOTO-SURVEILLANCE BRIEFCASE, 1960s

SOVIET KGB CIGARETTE PACK CAMERA, 1970s

SOVIET F-21 TYPE II SURVEILLANCE CAMERA, 1970s-1980s

Pocket control unit
Thumb lever for setting aperture
Squeeze trigger for firing shutter
Remote shutter release cable
Frame counter
Lens
Locking collar
Winding knob
Shutter release
Shutter speed dial
Synchronization lever
Attachment for waist belt
Camera cover
False button with opening for lens
Camera locking lever

SWISS ABC STEINECK WRIST CAMERA, 1950s

Wrist strap
Right-angle viewfinder
Lens
Film cassette indicator
Shutter release
Direct vision viewfinder
Setting for dim light
Aperture setting knob
Setting for bright light
Manufacturer's mark

GERMAN MINOX MINIATURE CAMERA AND ACCESSORIES, 1960s

Focusing distance marker
Belt loop ring

MEASURING CHAIN

Attachment for camera

Handle
Negative holder
Eyepiece

NEGATIVE VIEWER

Development processing thermometer
Light-tight opening for adding developing liquid
Groove for film
Film holder
Thermometer case
Daylight developing tank

DAYLIGHT DEVELOPING KIT

Frame counter
Shutter speed dial
Film speed dial
Focusing dial
Shutter release
Lens
Meter cell
Viewfinder

CAMERA

Attachment to camera body
Reflector

FLASH ATTACHMENT

Camera attachment knob
Camera bracket
Opening for lens
Telescopic leg
Rubber tip
Cable release

COPY STAND

Mirror
Opening for meter cell
Right-angle viewing attachment
Camera bracket
Ball-and-socket joint
Legs of tripod (fit inside main leg)
Hollow main leg
Cable release

TRIPOD

Espionage 2

US INTELLIGENCE SERVICES' RECTAL TOOLKIT, 1960s

Plastic case for rectal concealment

Cutting blade bits

Saw blade bits

Reamer bit

Pliers/wirecutters

File bit

Grinding bit

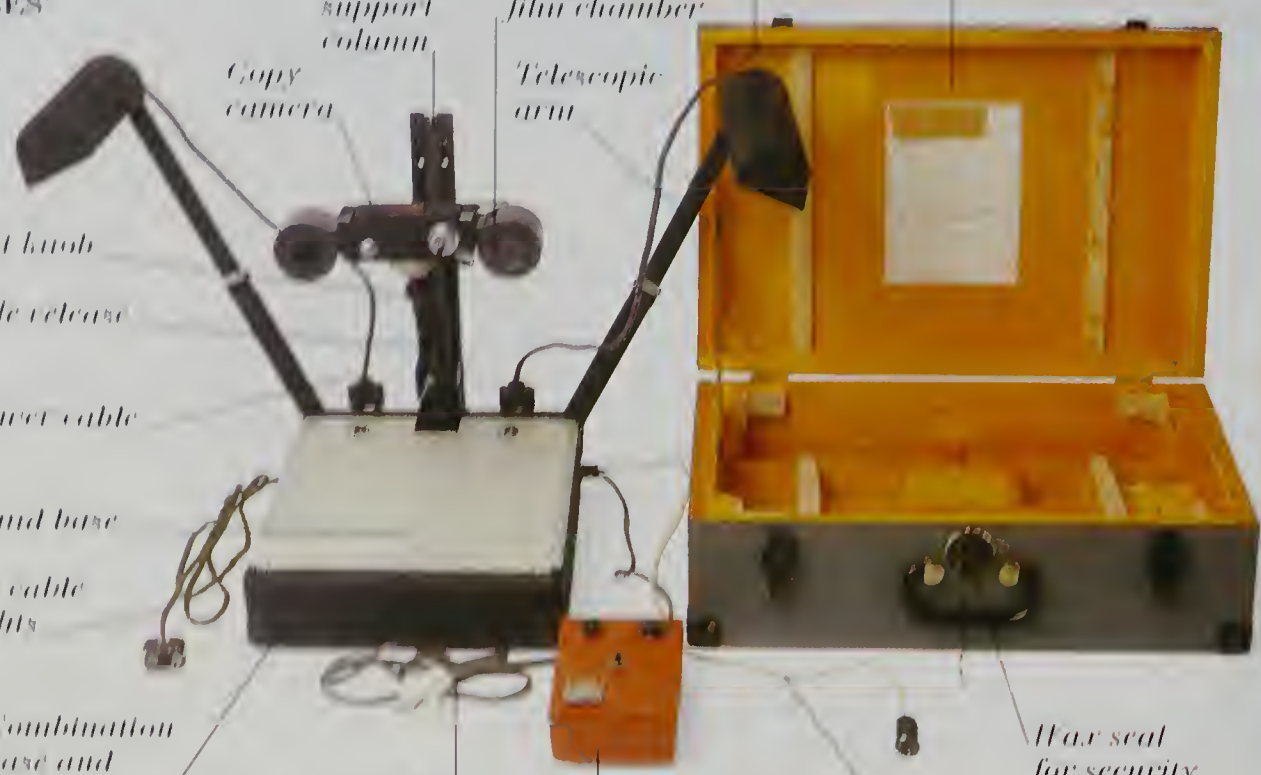
Reamer bit

Drill bit

Insertion point for tool bits

Handle for tools

SOVIET KGB DOCUMENT COPY CAMERA, 1980s



Carrying case

Light

Large capacity film chamber

Camera support column

Copy camera

Telescopic arm

Column adjustment knob

Cable release

Power cable

Copy stand base

Power cable for lights

Combination base and storage box

Power cable for control box

Power supply and control box

Cable for control box

Wax seal for security

US INTELLIGENCE SERVICES' DISGUISE KIT, 1960s

Case for moustache material

Moustache in case

Comb

Trimming scissors

Comb

Cold cream

Instruction manual showing moustache shapes

Dyeing brush

Moustache material

False heel for altering gait

Mixing dish

Mixing dish

Spirit glue

Cloth

Travel case

Cotton bud

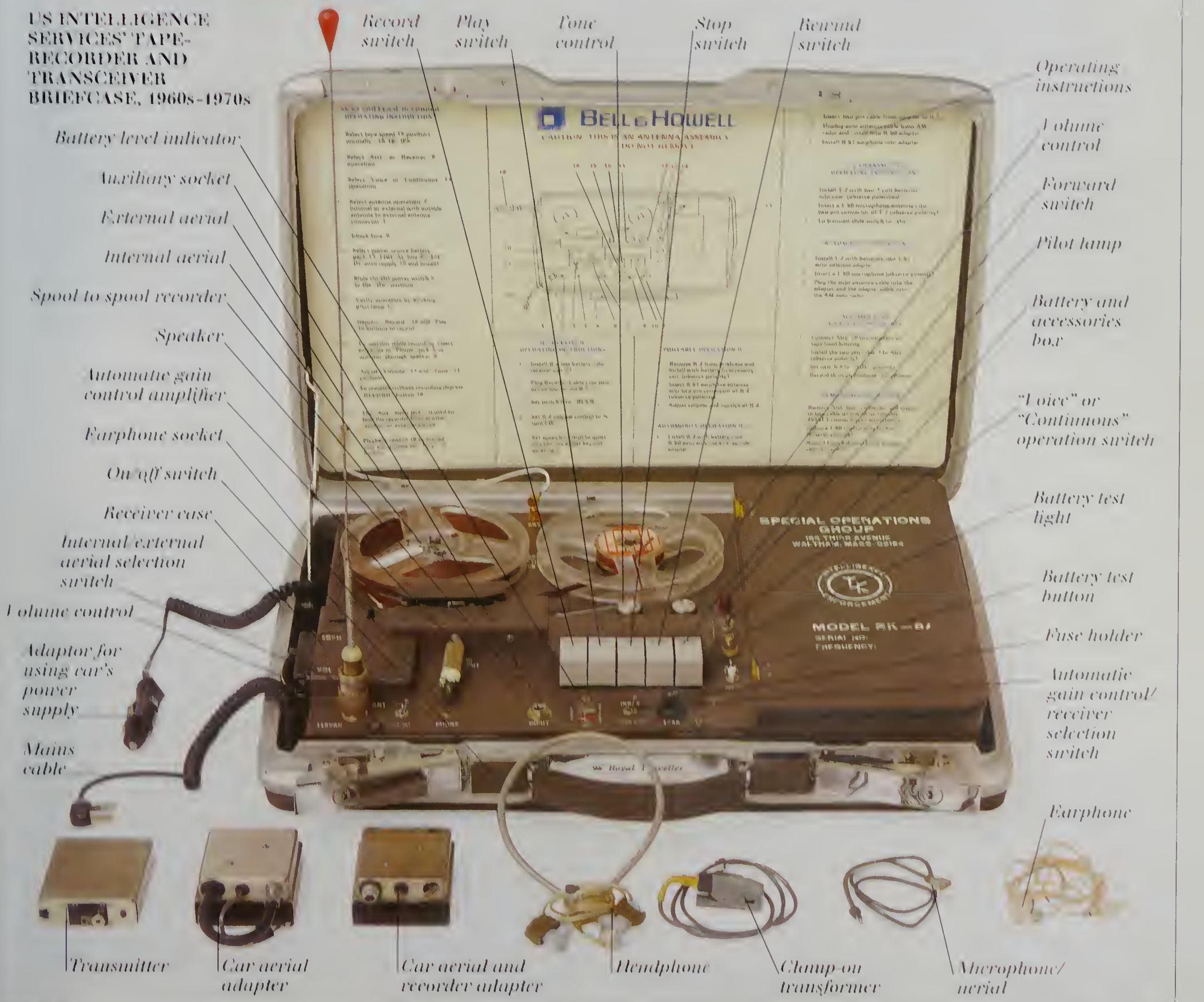
Mirror

Tweezers

Mixing dish

US INTELLIGENCE SERVICES' KEY-CASTING KIT, 1960s

US INTELLIGENCE SERVICES' TAPE-RECORDER AND TRANSCEIVER BRIEFCASE, 1960s–1970s

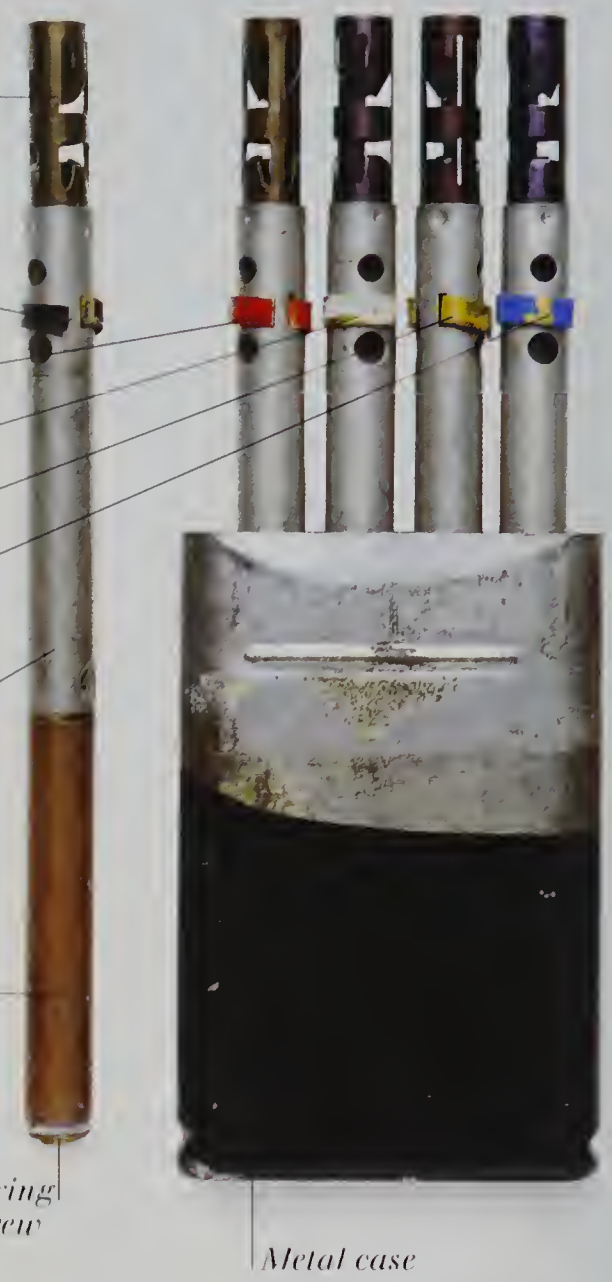


Sabotage

BRITISH No.82 "GAMMON" GRENADE, WORLD WAR II (1939-1945)

SABOTAGE IS THE COVERT destruction of important enemy equipment and installations, such as airfields, railways, and bridges. Acts of sabotage not only cause destruction but may also disrupt enemy movements, supply lines, and communications. Because of the need for secrecy, sabotage is usually carried out by individual agents or small groups of special forces. Saboteurs often use plastic explosives, which may be moulded into different shapes; other explosive devices used include grenades and demolition charges. These devices may be concealed or camouflaged, such as the magnetic "clam" demolition charge, which may be hidden on a vehicle, and the explosive disguised as coal, used to blow up steam engines. The explosives are often fitted with switches and time-delay fuses to enable saboteurs to escape unharmed.

BRITISH TIME-DELAY "PENCIL" FUSE, WORLD WAR II (1939-1945)

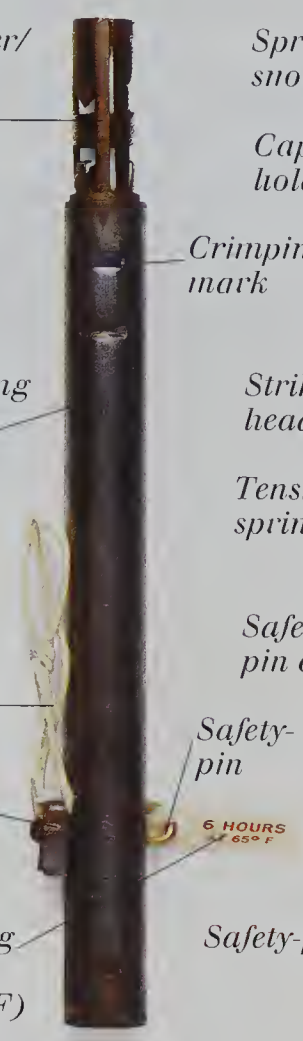


US KIT FOR MAKING "EXPLOSIVE COAL", WORLD WAR II (1939-1945)

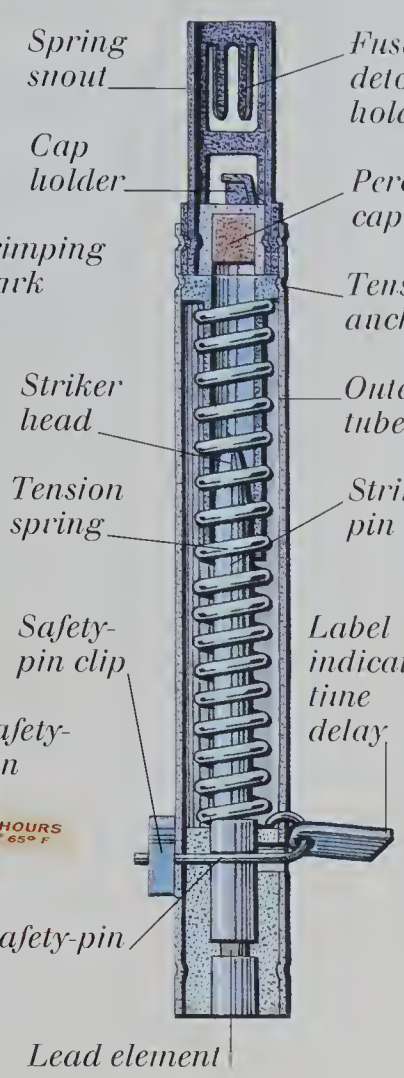
BRITISH No.36 M GRENADE ("MILLS BOMB"), WORLD WAR II (1939-1945)

INTERIOR OF TIME-DELAY "PENCIL" FUSE, WORLD WAR II (1939-1945)

BRITISH "L-DELAY" FUSE, WORLD WAR II (1939-1945)

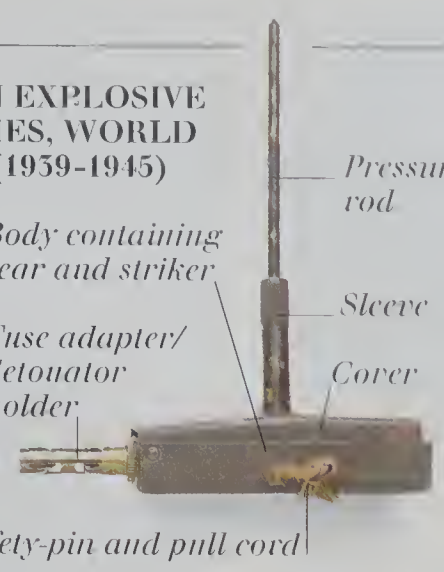


EXTERIOR OF FUSE

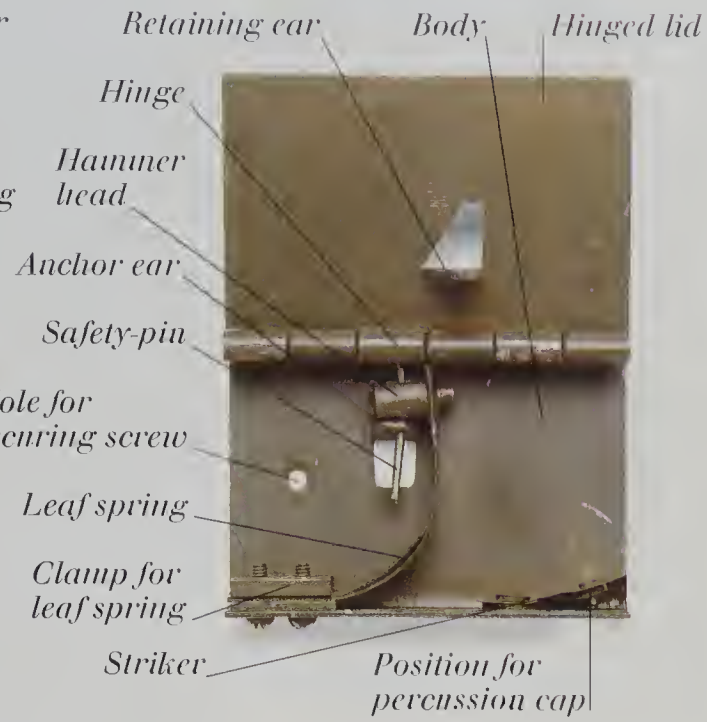


INTERIOR OF FUSE

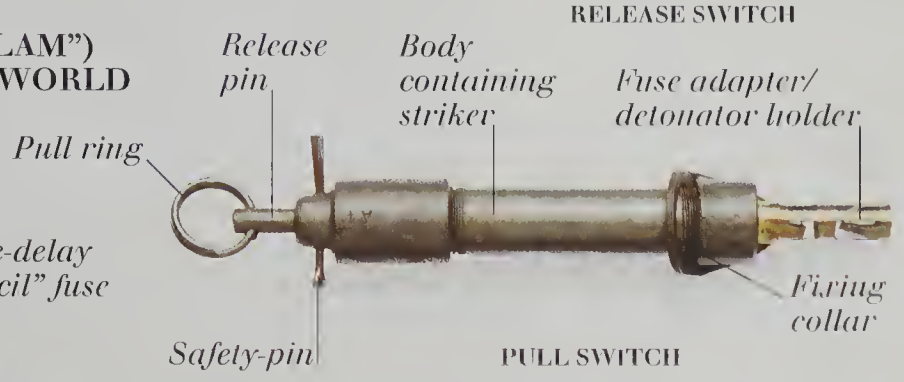
BRITISH EXPLOSIVE SWITCHES, WORLD WAR II (1939-1945)



PRESSURE SWITCH

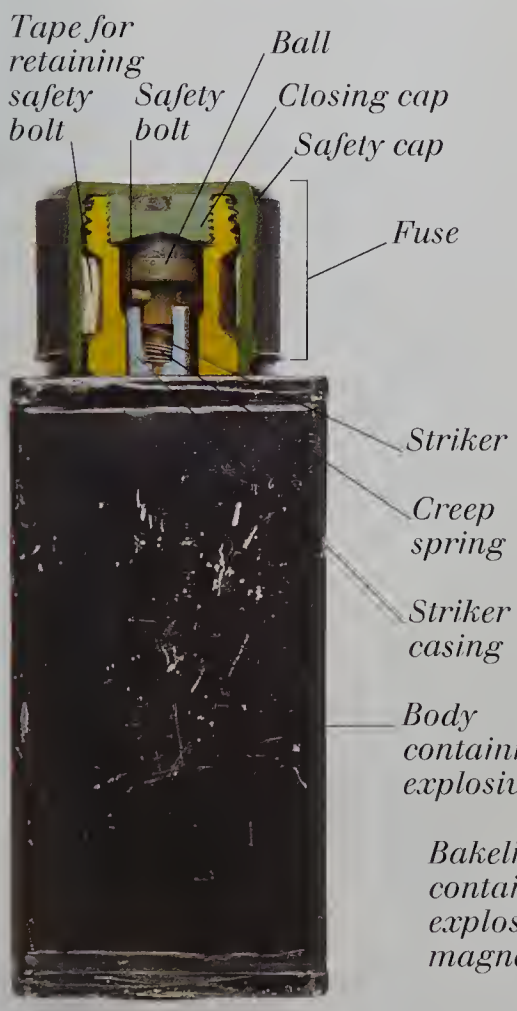


RELEASE SWITCH

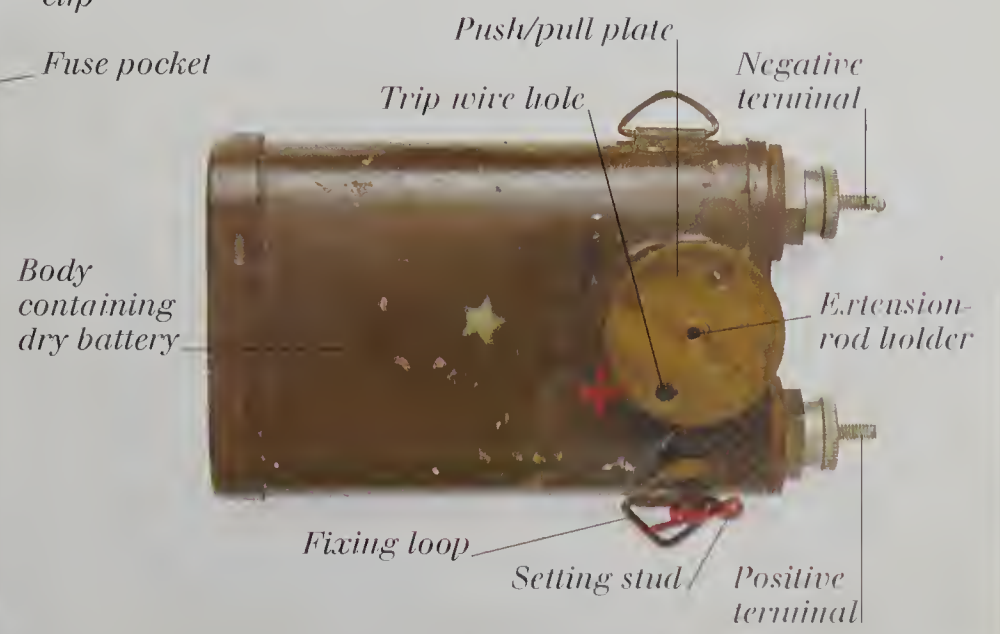


PULL SWITCH

BRITISH GENERAL PURPOSE GRENADE, WORLD WAR II (1939-1945)

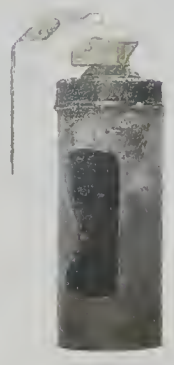


BRITISH MAGNETIC ("CLAM") DEMOLITION CHARGE, WORLD WAR II (1939-1945)



PUSH-PULL SWITCH

Counter-revolutionary units



BRITISH STUN GRENADE (EXPLODED), 1980s

THE GROWTH OF INTERNATIONAL terrorism has led to the formation of various elite counter-revolutionary forces, such as the Counter Revolutionary Unit of Britain's Special Air Service (SAS) and Germany's Grenzschutzgruppe 9, part of the Bundesgrenschutz (German border guard). Soldiers in counter-revolutionary units undergo specialized training, not only in combat techniques, but also in methods of psychological warfare. Counter-revolutionary units usually operate in small teams of two or four men. Typically, they wear protective body armour and are armed with special weapons, such as the light but accurate Heckler and Koch MP5 submachine-gun, the Browning 9 mm automatic pistol, and magnesium-based stun grenades that are designed to shock terrorists without causing injury.

BRITISH SPECIAL AIR SERVICE'S BADGE, 1950-1990s

BRITISH SPECIAL AIR SERVICE'S HOLSTER, 1980s

Magazine pouch
Belt loop
Holster
Buckle
Retaining flap
Waist belt
Stud fastener
Browning 9 mm automatic pistol
Buckle
Webbing thigh strap
Attachment loop

GERMAN HECKLER AND KOCH 9 MM MP5A3 SUBMACHINE-GUN, 1990s

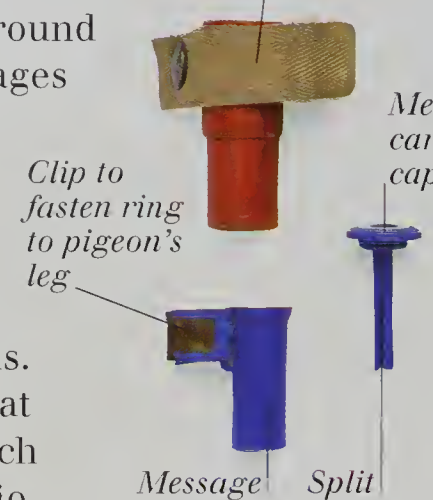
Sling eye bolt
Foresight
Cocking handle
Bolt head carrier
Firing pin and spring
Hammer
Rotary rear sight
Pressure spring
Butt rail
Locking pin for hand-guard
Locking piece
Guide rod
Recoil spring
Ejector
Rear sling fitting
Adjustable butt
Lug for securing blank firing device
Plastic hand-guard
9 mm parabellum round
Locking pin for grip assembly
Locking pin for butt assembly
Follower and spring
Single-shot position
Sear
Safety catch/ firing selector
Trigger
30-round magazine
Trigger guard
Fully-automatic position
Magazine release catch
Plastic pistol grip

GERMAN BORDER GUARD (BUNDESGRENZSCHUTZ) BADGES, 1972-1990s

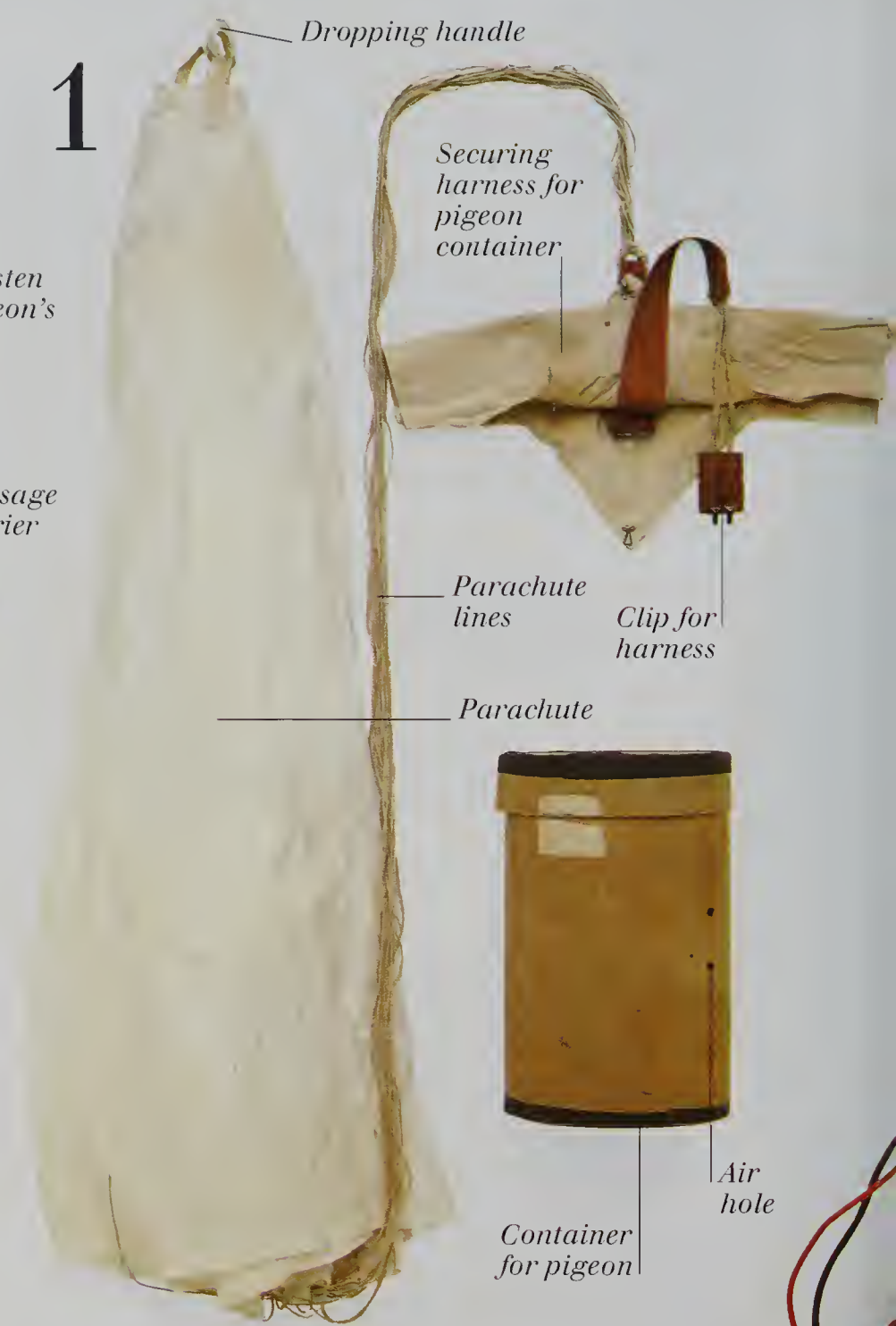
BRITISH SPECIAL AIR SERVICE'S PERSONAL EQUIPMENT, 1980s

Military communications 1

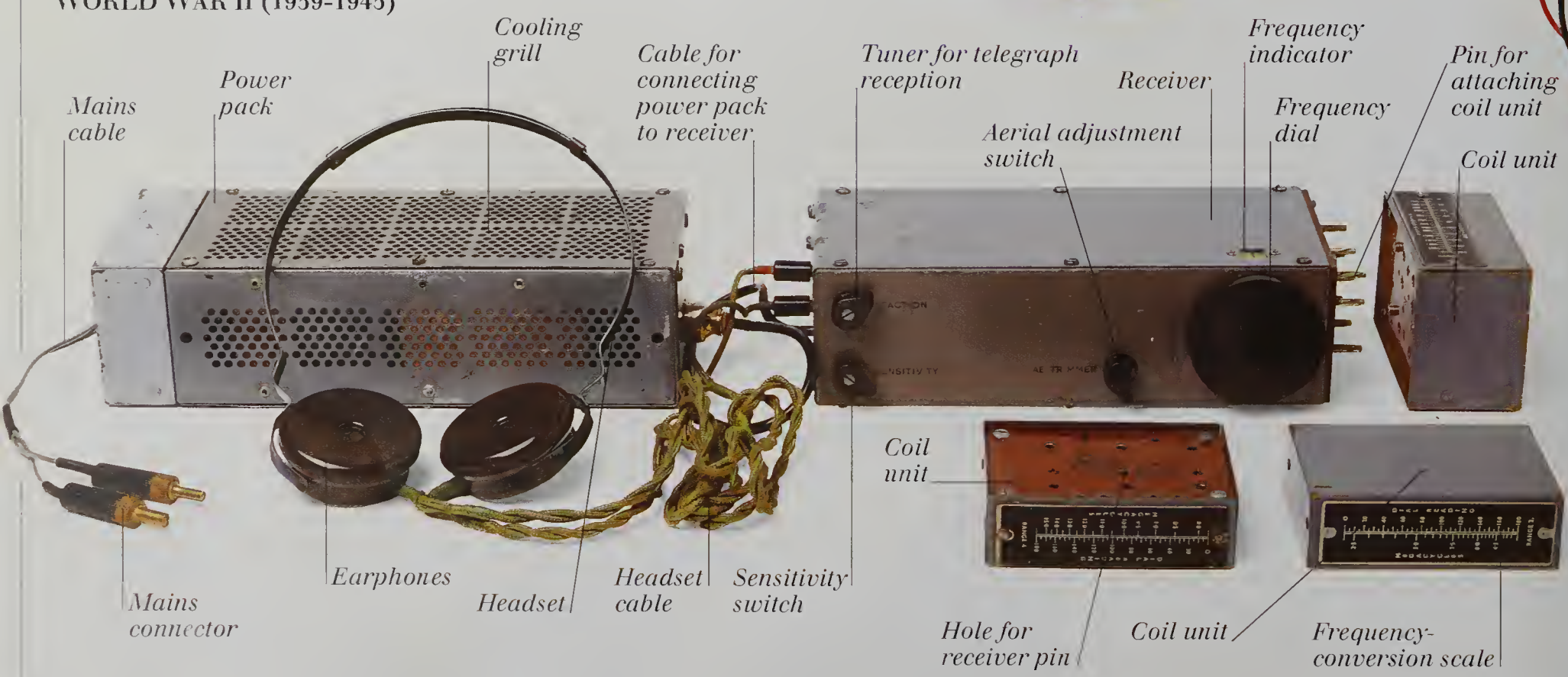
GOOD COMMUNICATIONS ARE VITAL for the success of any military operation, and a wide variety of methods have been employed. One of the more unusual methods, used during World War II, involved parachuting homing pigeons to agents and special forces on the ground so that the birds could carry messages when they flew home. Efficient communications are particularly important for special forces and secret agents because they often work alone or in small groups, and in remote and dangerous areas. They commonly use equipment that is portable and easy to conceal, such as walkie-talkies, "biscuit-tin" radio receivers, and suitcase radios. Keeping communications secure is also important. One way of achieving this is to use special methods of radio transmission. For example, the high-speed burst transmitter sends radio messages in short spurts so that they cannot be intercepted easily. Another method of keeping communications secret is to send messages in code (see pp. 50-51).



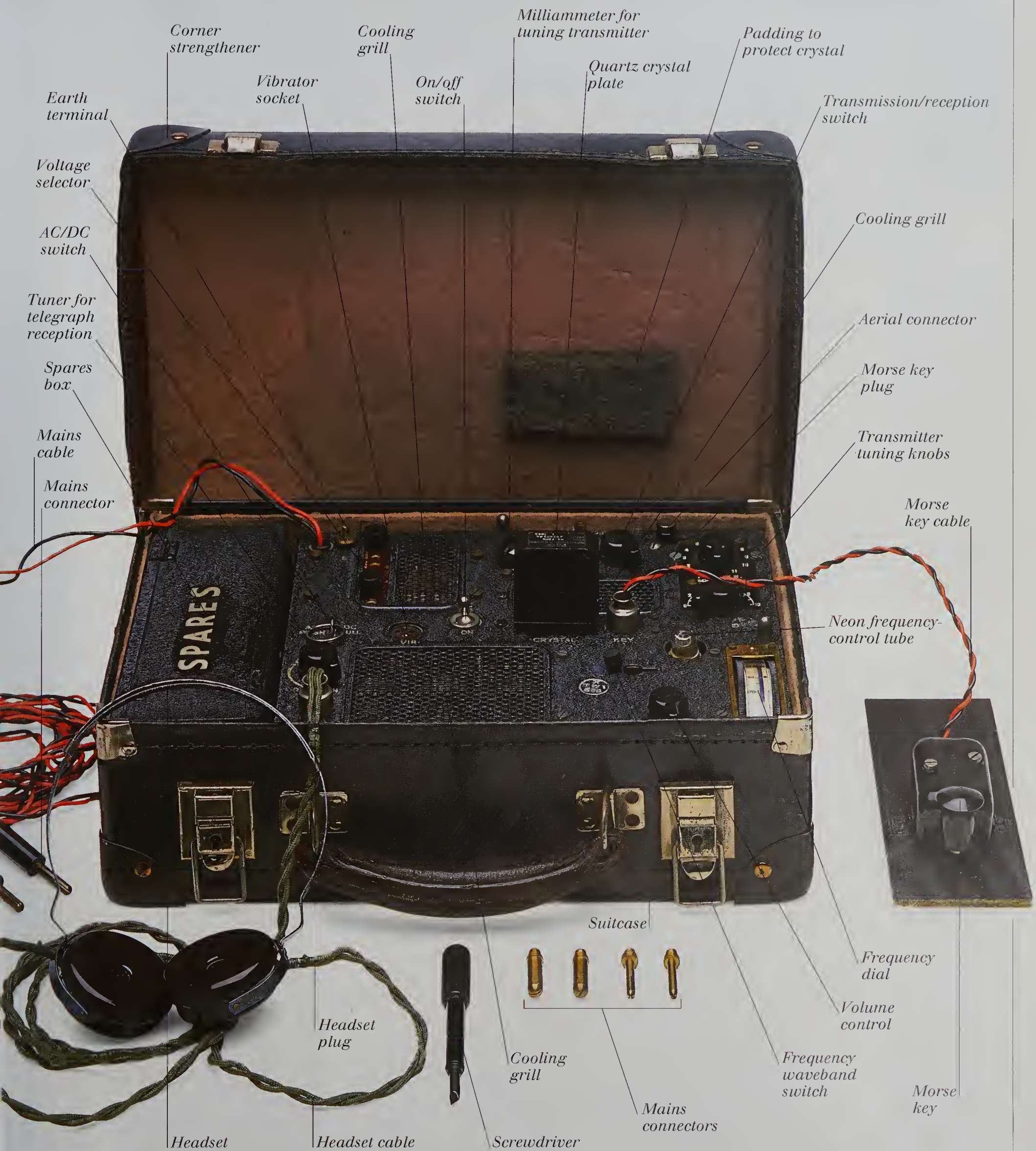
BRITISH PIGEON PARACHUTE, WORLD WAR II (1939-1945)



BRITISH MCR 1 RECEIVER ("BISCUIT-TIN" RECEIVER), WORLD WAR II (1939-1945)

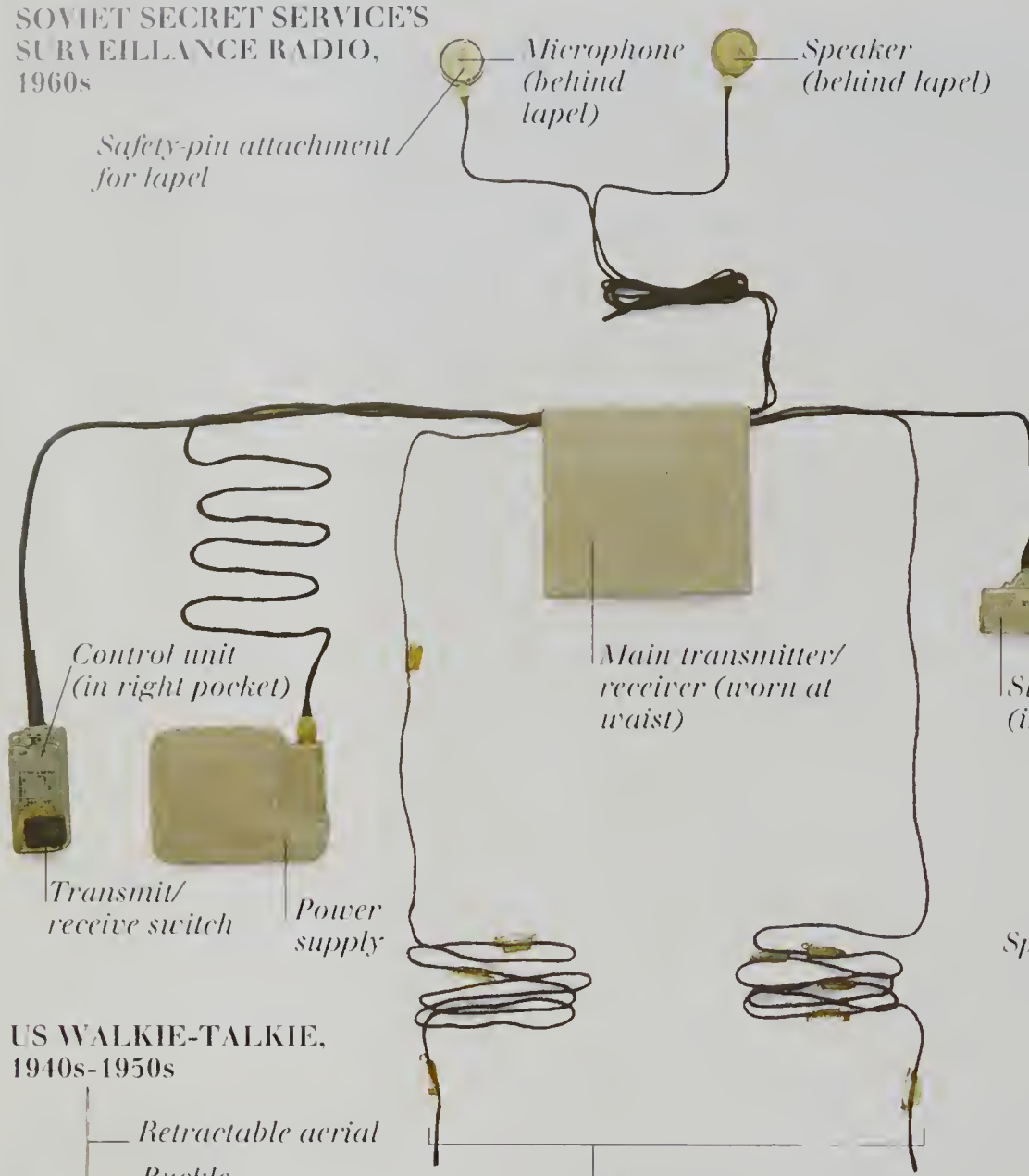


BRITISH TYPE A MK III SUITCASE RADIO, WORLD WAR II (1939-1945)



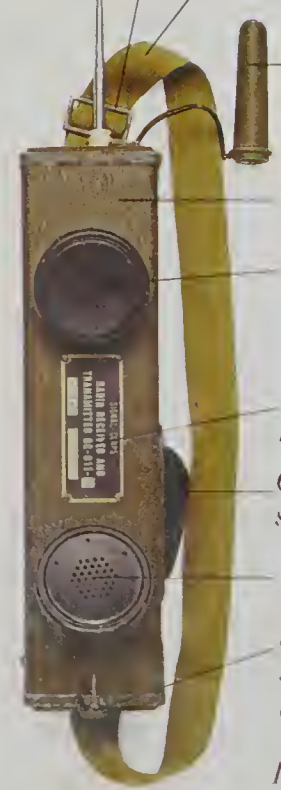
Military communications 2

SOVIET SECRET SERVICE'S SURVEILLANCE RADIO, 1960s

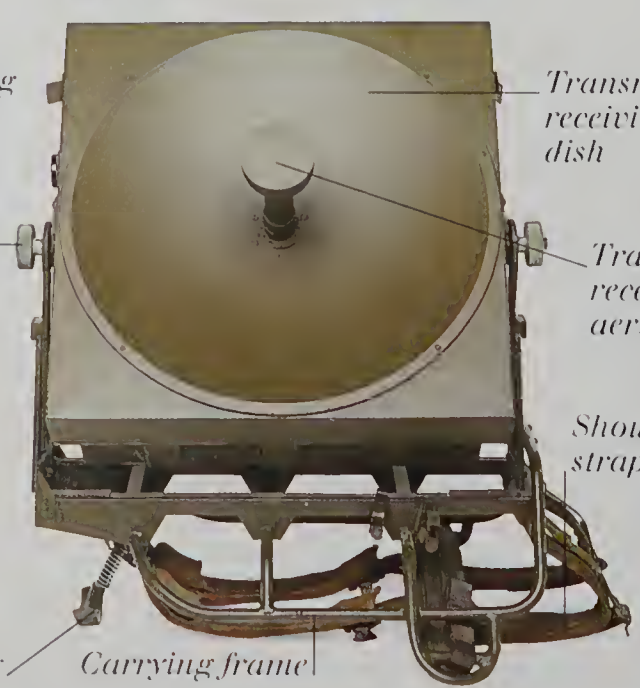


US HAND-HELD RADIO SET, 1990s

US WALKIE-TALKIE, 1940s-1950s



BRITISH PORTABLE SATELLITE COMMUNICATIONS TERMINAL, 1970s



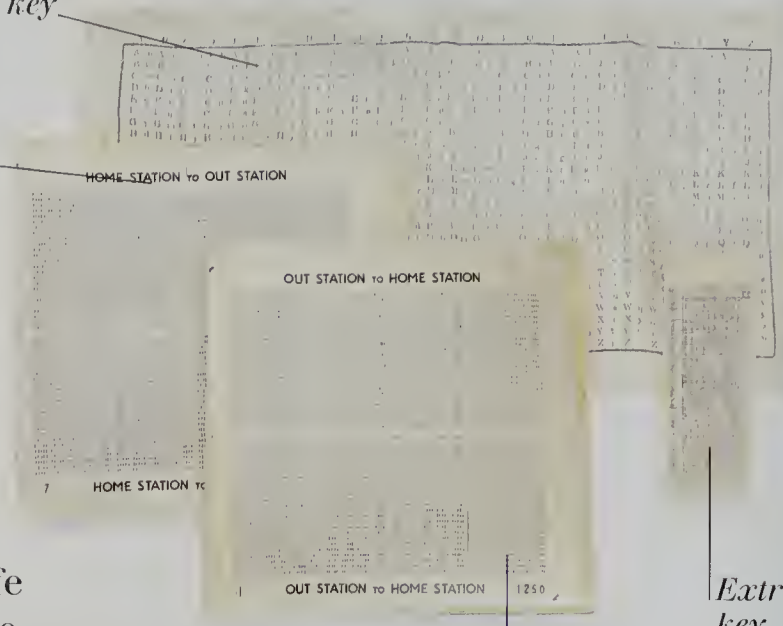
BRITISH A16 HF TRANSCEIVER USED BY SPECIAL AIR SERVICE, 1960s-1980s

Encoding and decoding

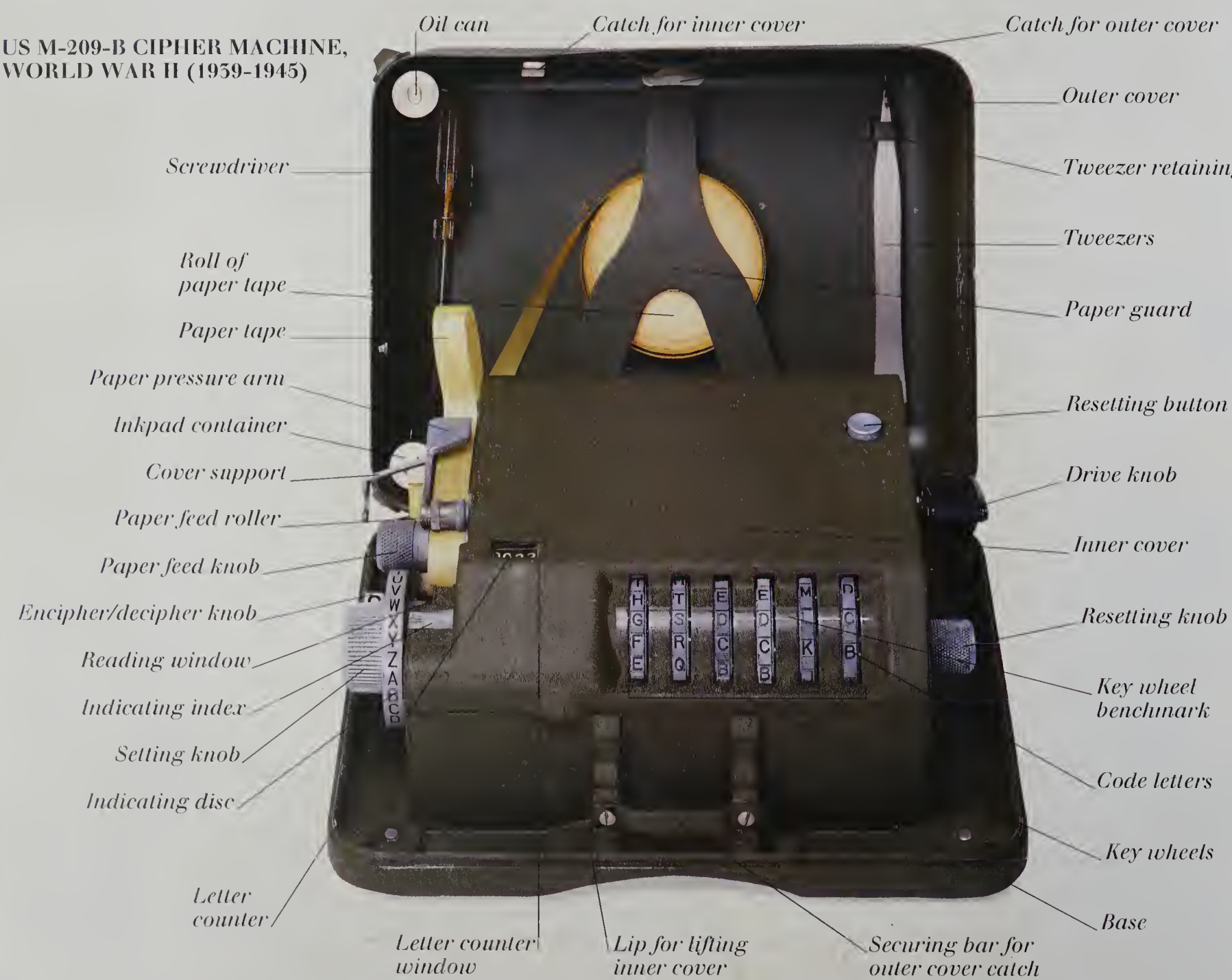
THE SENDING OF MESSAGES in code developed out of the need to keep military communications secret. Although codes (also known as ciphers) have been used for centuries, they became essential once radio was used to send messages, because the enemy could easily intercept radio transmissions. As the importance of encoding increased, so too did the work of breaking codes. During World War II, one-time pads provided an almost totally safe method of encoding and decoding, but using them took a long time. Faster methods of encoding had to be developed for use by troops in action, so machines such as the compact US M-209-B cipher machine were designed. The German electromechanical Enigma machine had an extremely sophisticated enciphering process that produced complex codes. The Enigma system was thought to be completely secure, but it was eventually cracked by the Allies.

BRITISH CIPHER WHEEL c.1880

BRITISH ONE-TIME PADS, WORLD WAR II (1939-1945)



US M-209-B CIPHER MACHINE, WORLD WAR II (1939-1945)



GERMAN ENIGMA CIPHER MACHINE, WORLD WAR II (1939-1945)

Spare bulb hole
Spare light bulbs
Double plug cable
Cable retaining clip
Rotor slit
Viewing window
Metal cover plate
Cover hinge
Lever
Code letters
Rotor cylinder
Handle
Cable testing socket
Light bulb
Keyboard
Identification plate
Double plug
Double plug cable
Socket panel
Filter plate
Cover retaining screw
Release catch
Upper lid
Filter catch
Spare double plug
Plug retaining bracket
Lock
Coding rotor
Battery box
Mains connection point
Catch for battery box lid
Current testing socket
Retaining screw fitting
Key
Front panel hook
Plug socket
Cable testing socket
Front panel hinge
Front panel
Front panel retaining loop
Front panel catch
Filter plate retaining screw

Special forces' weapons 1

SPECIAL FORCES HAVE TO CARRY OUT such a wide variety of missions that they have a great need for specialized weapons. For example, many of the clandestine operations undertaken by special forces require silent weapons, such as the special silenced version of the Sten submachine-gun, which was used in World War II, or the modern version of a crossbow. In other dangerous situations – when fighting terrorists, for instance – special forces often require maximum firepower, and therefore many groups use pump-action shotguns, such as the Italian Franchi Special Purpose Automatic Shotgun, which is capable of firing four rounds per second. The M79 grenade launcher is used for longer-range action, because it can lob grenades and other explosive projectiles up to a distance of about 450 m (500 yards). Multipurpose weapons were popular with special forces involved in close-quarter fighting during World War II, when the knuckleduster knife and the Peskett close-combat weapon (comprising a garrotte, dagger, and bludgeon) were used.

BRITISH TREE SPIGOT MORTAR, WORLD WAR II (1939–1945)

US BARRETT .50 IN M82A1 SPECIAL APPLICATIONS RIFLE, 1990s

PRISMATIC SIGHT OF SPIGOT MORTAR

RAINSHIELD OF SPIGOT MORTAR

ITALIAN FRANCHI 12-BORE S.P.A.S. (SPECIAL PURPOSE AUTOMATIC SHOTGUN), 1990s

BRITISH SPECIAL SILENCED STEN SUBMACHINE-GUN, WORLD WAR II (1939-1945)

Special forces' weapons 2

US COLT COMMANDO 5.56 MM CARBINE, 1960s-1990s

Foresight
Barrel
Flash suppressor
Bayonet lug
Front sling fitting
Plastic hand-guard

BRITISH PESKETT CLOSE-COMBAT WEAPON, WORLD WAR II (1939-1945)

Retractable garrotte
Retaining mechanism
Grip
Dagger release button
Retractable dagger
Bludgeon
Attachment ring
Wrist strap

BRITISH CROSSBOW, 1980s

Bowstring attachment loop
Bowstring
Protective cover
Plastic flight
Bolt
Shooting knife
Handle
Metal bow
Bowstring sear
Rear sight
Foresight
Receiver
Lever to secure shoulder stock
Bow-locking attachment
Fore-grip
Trigger
Grip
Lever to secure shooting knife
Trigger guard
Sliding shoulder stock

US 40 MM M79 GRENADE LAUNCHER, 1960s-1980s

Recoil pad
Barrel catch
Butt
Safety catch
Rear sling fitting
Folding trigger guard
Trigger
Allen key
Trigger-guard release switch

US KNUCKLEDUSTER KNIFE, 1910s-1940s

Guard
Manufacturer's mark
U.S. 1918
L.F.&C-1918
Knuckleduster grip
Spike

Carrying handle
Cocking handle
Rear sling fitting
Bolt release catch
Extendible butt
Safety catch/ firing selector
Slip ring
Catch to extend butt
Plastic pistol grip
Trigger guard
Trigger
30-round magazine

GERMAN HECKLER AND KOCH 9 MM P9S AUTOMATIC PISTOL, 1980s-1990s

Foresight
Slide catch
Safety catch
Rear sight
Muzzle
Slide
Barrel clamp
Front of trigger guard for two-handed grip
Trigger
Trigger guard
Cocking lever
Pistol grip
Magazine floorplate
Magazine release catch

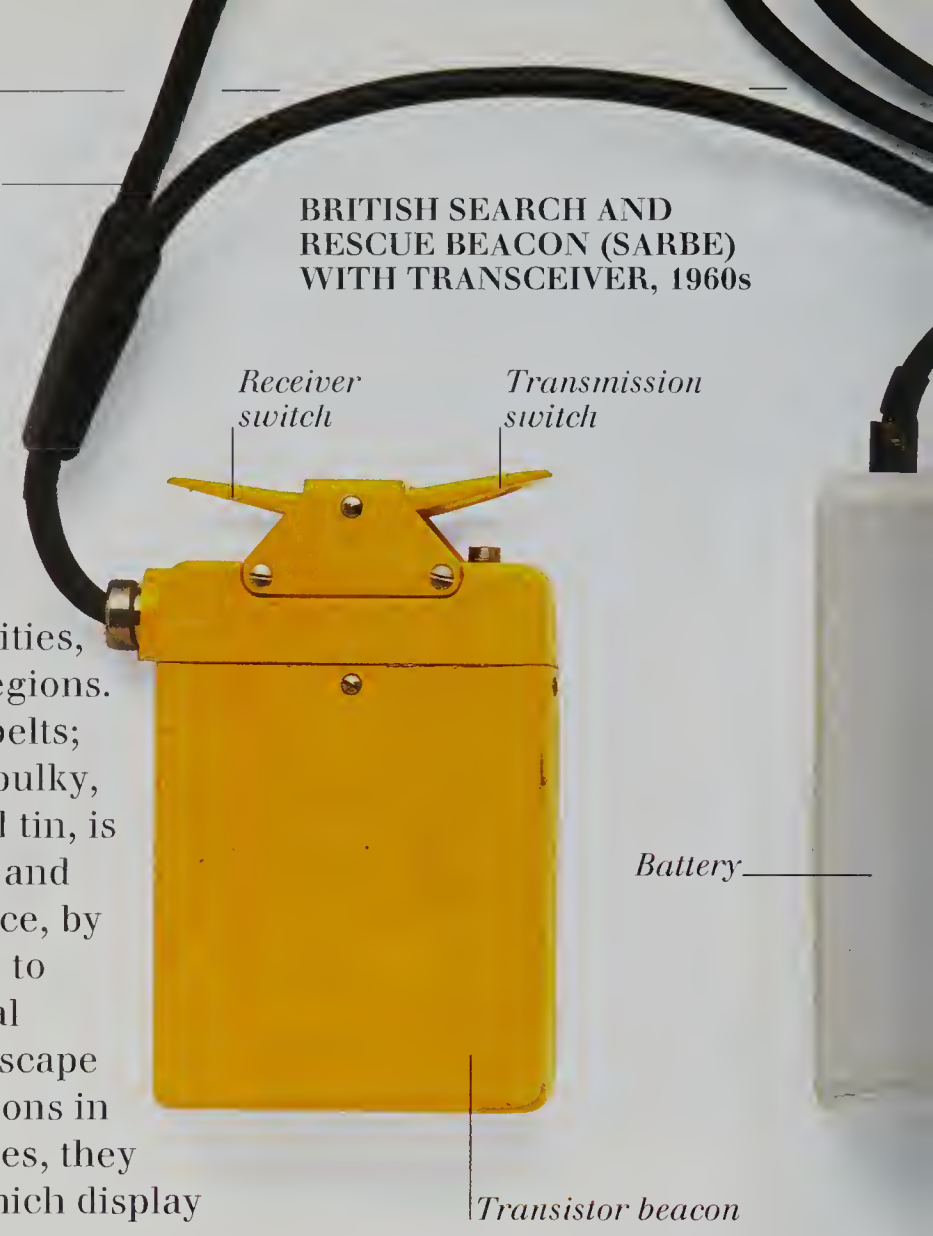
Rear sight
Windage screw
Foresight
Barrel
Fore-end
Front sling fitting

AUSTRALIAN OWEN SUBMACHINE-GUN, 1940s-1960s

33-round magazine
Magazine housing
Magazine release catch
Disassembly plunger
Selector switch
Foresight
Barrel
Rear sight
Butt
Compensator
Ejection port
Front sling fitting
Trigger guard
Blade
Pistol grip
Trigger
Rear sling fitting
Front grip

Escape and survival 1

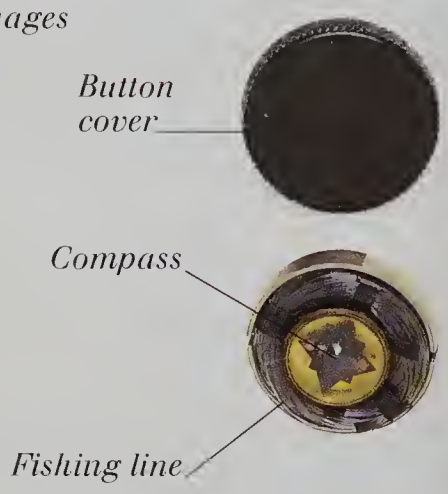
SPECIAL FORCES OPERATE in some of the most dangerous areas in the world and so they have a relatively high chance of being captured by the enemy or stranded in hostile territory. Special forces are trained in survival techniques that give them a range of skills, including how to provide themselves with basic necessities, such as food, water, shelter, and fire, in even the most barren regions. Troops usually carry survival aids in pouches attached to their belts; this piece of kit is known as a belt order. If the belt order is too bulky, then just a compact version of the survival kit, packed in a small tin, is carried. As well as being able to keep themselves alive, soldiers and aircrew must be able to attract help in an emergency, for instance, by lighting flares or by using a Search and Rescue Beacon (SARBE) to signal their location and speak to the rescuer. Agents and special forces operating in enemy territory may suddenly be forced to escape from the country, so they carry compasses and maps. For situations in which troops may have to identify themselves in foreign countries, they are issued with an emergency kit that includes "blood chits", which display the troops' national flag and show useful phrases in local languages.



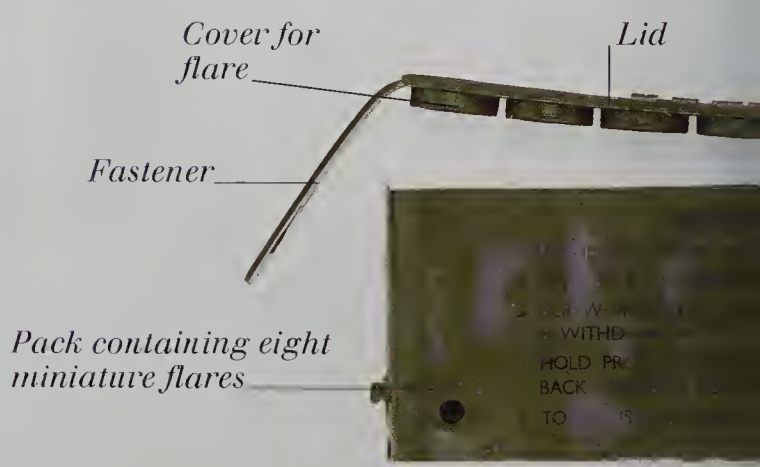
BRITISH SEARCH AND RESCUE BEACON (SARBE) WITH TRANSCEIVER, 1960s

BRITISH EMERGENCY KIT, SUEZ CRISIS, 1956

BRITISH ESCAPE BUTTON, 1990s



BRITISH PACK OF FLARES, 1980s-1990s



Aerial casing
Switch
Coiled aerial
Mouthpiece/ earpiece of transceiver
EJECT
Aerial ejector toggle
BEACON OFF
Connecting clip
Watertight screw
Connecting sleeve

BRITISH PENKNIFE, WORLD WAR II (1939-1945)

Pincer handle
Attachment loop
Wirecutters
Saw blades
Knife blade

US "BLOOD CHIT" CARRIED BY AIRCREW FLYING OVER SOVIET TERRITORY, WORLD WAR II (1939-1945)

US national flag
"I am an American" printed in Russian script
Я американец
Pronunciation of Russian for "I am an American"
"Ya Amerikánets" (Pronounced as spelt)
"Please communicate my particulars to American Military Mission Moscow" printed in Russian script
Пожалуйста сообщите сведения обо мне в Американскую Военную Миссию в Москве
Please communicate my particulars to American Military Mission Moscow

BRITISH MONOCULAR, 1990s

Fastening
Wrist strap
Monocular
Monocular case

Flare
SWESSEX
080A
Flare
Spring-loaded firing pin
Instructions for use
Case containing mechanism to fire flares

BRITISH MINIATURE LIGHT SOURCE, 1980s-1990s

Attachment loop
Case containing tritium gas light-source
Cap

US MULTI-PURPOSE SURVIVAL TOOL, 1980s-1990s

Pliers/ wirecutters
Fold-out handle
Cross-head screwdriver
Screwdriver
Tin opener/ bottle opener
Awl
Screwdriver
Fine screwdriver
Blade
File

Escape and survival 2

BRITISH BELT ORDER, 1990s

BRITISH SURVIVAL KIT, 1980s–1990s

US ARMALITE AR7 .22 IN SURVIVAL RIFLE, 1960s

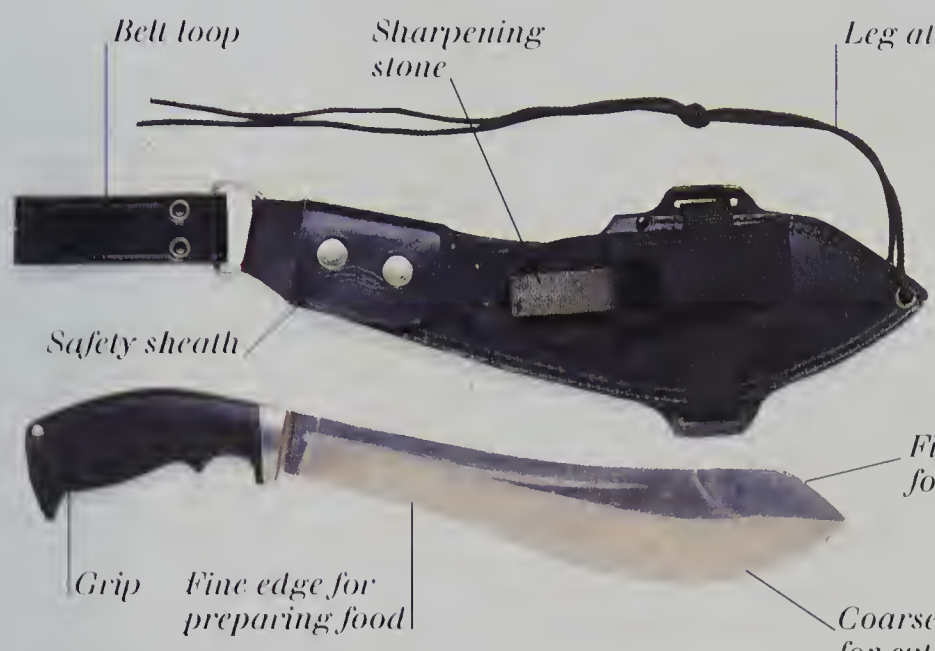
Water-purification bag

Butt end cover

Threaded collar (for attaching to receiver)

BRITISH SURVIVAL KIT, WORLD WAR II (1939-1945)

BRITISH SURVIVAL KNIFE, 1990s

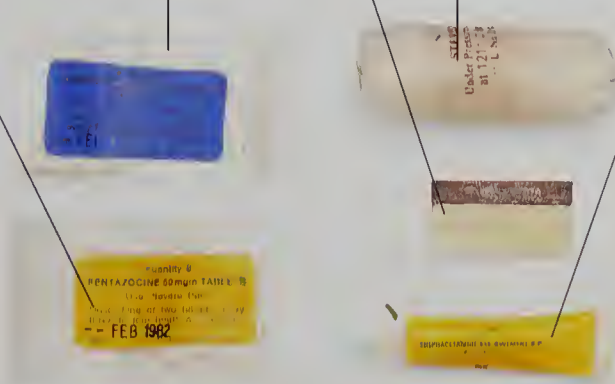


Chewing gum

Razor blade holder

BRITISH MEDICAL KIT, 1990s

Pentazocine pain-relief tablets

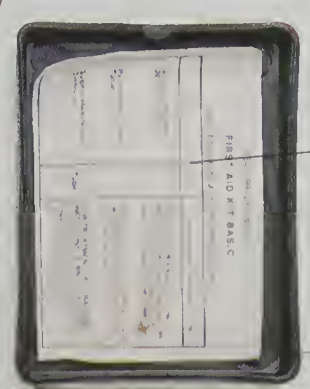


Codeine phosphate pain-relief tablets

Razor blade

Field dressing

Sulphacetamide eye ointment



List of contents and directions for use

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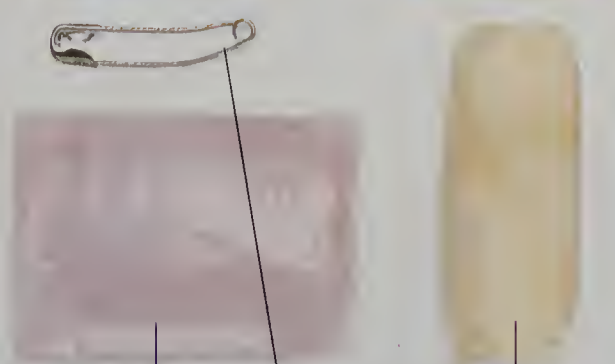

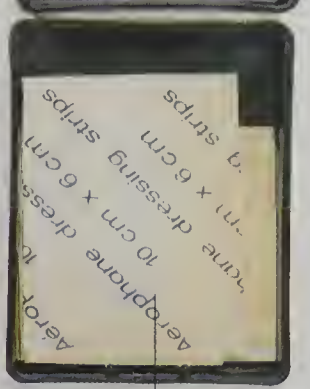

Field dressing

Field dressing

Dressing for burns

Safety-pin

Field dressing

Adhesive dressings

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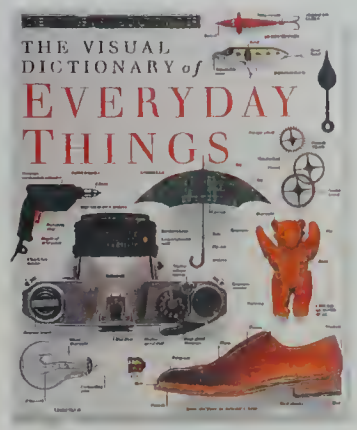
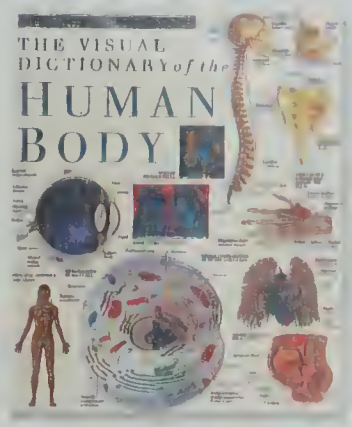
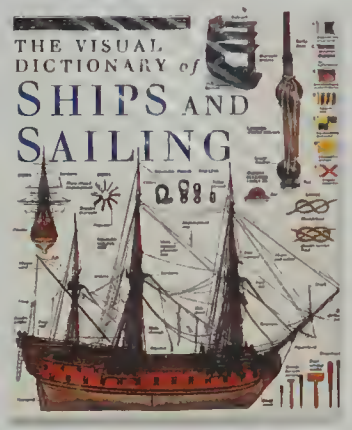
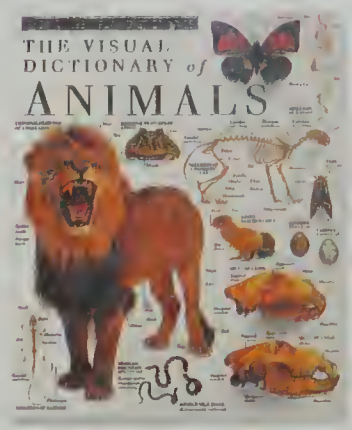
EYEWITNESS VISUAL DICTIONARIES

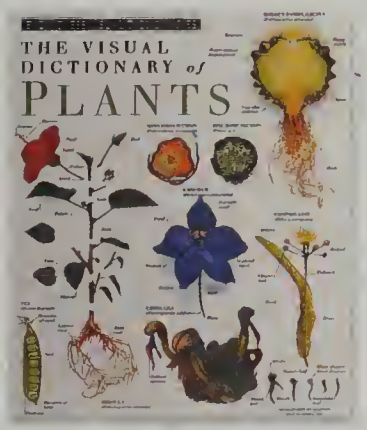
A SERIES TO COLLECT

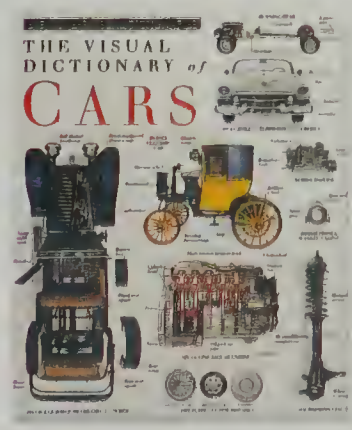


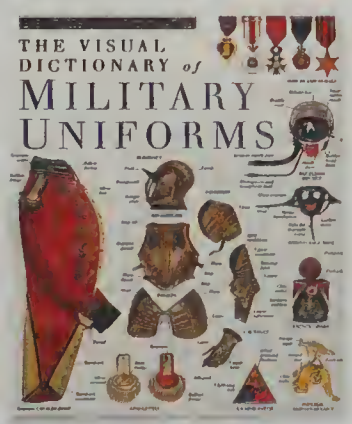


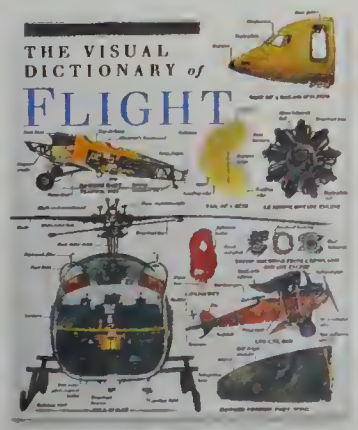


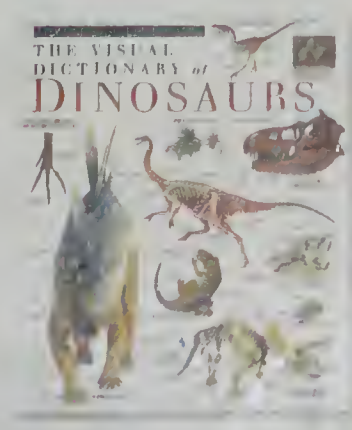












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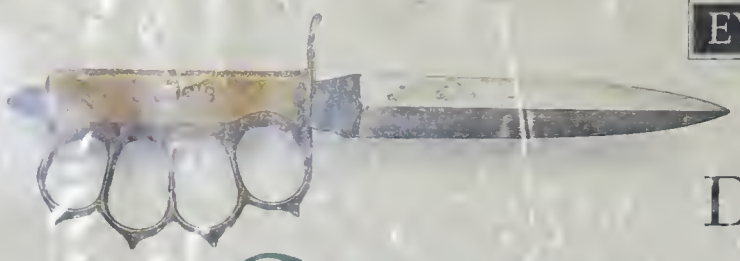

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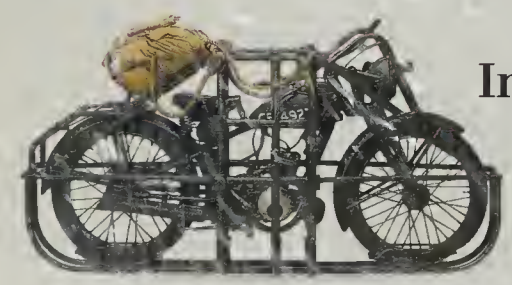

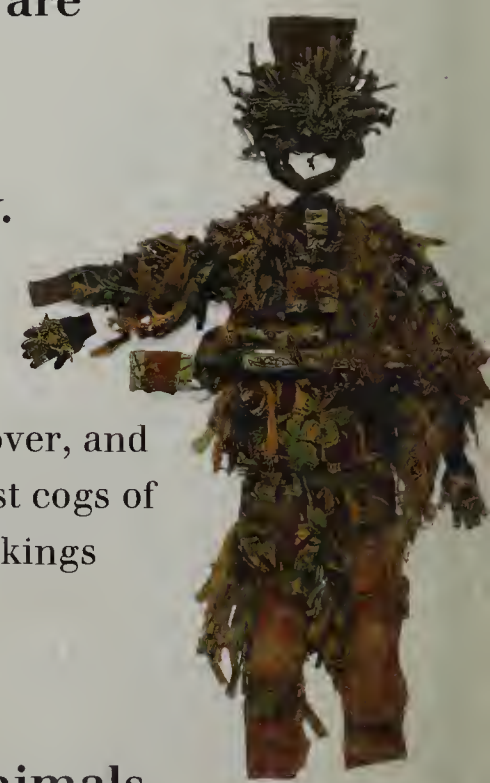

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